Daily Report

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Karadzic Claims Muslim Conditions Undermining Talks

LD1703235893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2240 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] New York, March 17 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Wednesday [17 March] accused the Moslem side of undermining the peace talks on the settlement of the crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina by setting new conditions.

"We came with no preconditions, but we are somewhat concerned about the preconditions of the Moslem side because they are undermining the negotiations," Karadzic said ahead of his meeting with the cochairmen of the conference on the former Yugoslavia, Lord David Owen and Cyrus Vance, in the U.N. headquarters in New York.

Vance and Lord Owen talked with Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban on Wednesday, and Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic is due in New York during the day.

Izetbegovic said he had more new conditions before he signed the map on the division of Bosnia-Herzegovina into ten provinces, and Malso had remarks about the proposal that Sarajevo be under tripartite rule.

"We came to negotiate primarily about peace, and then the maps," Karadzic said.

Vance and Lord Owen are to meet with Vladislav Jovanovic, Yugoslav deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during the day.

A session of the U.N. Security Council on the situation in the former Yugoslavia and Somalia has been called for 5 p.m. local time. A presidential statement is expected to be issued after the meeting.

Krajina President Lists Demands at Talks

LD1703211093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1936 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Geneva, 17 Mar (TANJUG)—The unconditional implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 802 and the extension of the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] mandate in the republic of Serbian Krajina are the basic demands which the delegation of the republic of Serbian Krajina will present to international mediators Herbert Okun and Geerd Ahrens.

This was stated by Goran Hadzic, president of the republic of Serbian Krajina, in the Palais des Nations in Geneva tonight ahead of the talks.

Hadzic said that the concessions which the Serbian side offered to Croatia before it launched the aggression on 22 January are sufficient for an agreement to be reached. This refers to the agreement that UNPROFOR return to Peruca dam, Maslenica bridge, and Zemunik airport and that it take control over the heavy artillery of the republic of Serbian Krajina.

Goran Hadzic expressed his readiness to sit at the same negotiating table with a Croatian delegation as soon as Croatia ceases fire and withdraws its army and police from the territory which it attacked in January. [passage omitted]

Skubiszewski Meets With Baltic Council Participants

LD1703160693 Warsaw PAP in English 1447 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Helsinki, March 17—Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Krzysztof Skubiszewski, who participates in the meeting of the interministerial Council of Baltic States in Helsinki, held talks on Tuesday [16 March] with Finnish President Mauno Koivisto and foreign ministers of Germany Klaus Kinkel, Sweden MS Margaretha Af Ugglas, Finland Paavo Vaeyrynen and Lithuania Povilas Gylys. The talks covered bilateral relations and the international situation.

Minister Skubiszewski also met Yuriy Matochkin, administrative chief of the Kaliningrad region, Russia's enclave adjacent to the northeastern corner of Poland. Both sides aim to expand bilateral contacts and improve transport facilities.

Mazowiecki To Continue Work for UN Human Rights Body

AU1703131893 Warsaw PAP in English 1833 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Warsaw, March 13—The chairman of the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Committee, Mohamed Ennaceur, expressed his support for Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Committee's special rapporteur for investigating human rights in the former Yugoslavia, announced the Press Office of Mazowiecki's Democratic Union party today.

On March 12, Ennaceur forwarded a letter to Vladimir Pavicevic, head of the delegation from the new federal republic of Yugoslavia to the international conference on the former Yugoslavia and ambassador of the new republic at the United Nations. The letter recalls that the UN Human Rights Committee extended Mazowiecki's mandate as its special envoy by one year and congratulated him on his work, particularly on his last report on human rights in the former Yugoslavia.

The Belgrade Government demanded Thursday [11 March] that Mazowiecki be dismissed from his post of a UN investigator and accused him of partiality, unreliability and racism.

Communique of Ministers' Meeting on Migration

LD1603232293 Prague Stanice Praha Radio Network in Czech 2130 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] At the February meeting of interior ministers of the European countries, it was noted that the current migration situation destabilizes political conditions in all of Europe. That is why it is necessary, as stressed by Czech Foreign Affairs Minister Josef Zieleniec in his address to the participants of the Prague conference, to solve the entire problem in a political manner, and not only by technical and repressive measures.

Ivan Stupcuk reports on the results of the talks:

[Begin recording] Although achieving the main goal—which should be conclusion of multilateral agreement of the participant sides on returning illegal migrants—has not been successful, according to [Czech Interior Minister] Jan Ruml, the Prague talks have progressed a step forward. The questions on which agreement was reached are contained in the final communique that will be submitted to the interested governments for discussion.

The communique states, among other things, that the participant states will not have responsibility for the foreigners who entered the asylum procedure prior to passing the new asylum law in the FRG—that is, for the so-called old cases. The participant states will then consider the possibility to return foreigners to the countries of origin across their own territories, under strictly stipulated conditions that will correspond to fundamental humanitarian principles, including the condition that the asking state will safeguard contractual form in taking over these persons in the country of origin. Individual interior ministries would also work toward making current asylum procedures more humane.

The participants in the Prague conference recommend the use of the opportunities provided by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe for the solution of the entire problem.

It followed from the session of the interior ministers and of their deputies from Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic, that it would be necessary to continue in concluding mutual bilateral agreements that would complement the network of the existing bilateral agreements.

According to Ruml, it is very likely that not only the representatives of the so-called transit states, but also the states from which illegal migrants are originating, would take part in future talks. This includes Romania, the country of origin of 60 percent of all migrants. [end recording]

Czech-Slovak Trade Declines Sharply

AU1703201893 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 15 Mar 93 p 1

["(tma)"-signed report: "Some Forty Percent Fewer Goods to Slovakia"]

[Text] Prague—Trade with the Slovak Republic has declined to about 54 percent of last year's monthly average. This is clear from the figures for the first month since the clearing trade system came into operation between the Czech and Slovak Republics. Goods worth some 8.9 billion korunas were exchanged and paid for.

The Czech Republic bought goods worth 3.7 billion korunas in Slovakia, and the Slovak Republic bought goods worth 5.2 billion korunas in the Czech Republic. This means a mutual trade balance of more than 1.5 billion korunas in the Czech Republic's favor. The clearing trade system (the so-called new block) was initiated between the republics immediately after currency separation on 8 February. However, it actually came into operation—in view of payments delays and other factors—on 15 February, that is, exactly one month ago.

The average monthly exchange of goods between the republics last year amounted to some 16.3 billion korunas. Slovak firms usually bought 8.8 billion korunas worth of goods in the Czech Republic. Exports to Slovakia have, in comparison to 1992, declined to 60 percent in the first month after currency separation. On the other hand, every month last year Czech firms bought goods worth 7.5 billion korunas in Slovakia; now they are buying barely half this amount. This means Czech exports have declined less than imports from the Slovak Republic.

Czech National Bank sources predict that Czech exports to Slovakia may even fall to 30 percent of their original volume. If we accept the generally accepted comparison that a 10-percent fall in exports means a 1-percent decline in generated gross domestic product, then this trend could put at risk the government's forecast that the GDP will increase by 3 percent this year.

Deputies View Work on Draft Constitution

AU1703142493 Tirana ATA in English 0905 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Tirana, March 17 (ATA)—The chairman of the commission charged to prepare the draft of the constitution of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Aleksander Meksi, in reply to the questions by some deputies, gave explanations on March 15 before noon on the activity of this commission. He said that the commission has seriously worked with the objective of drafting a constitution which will respond not only the immediate interests but those of the perspective as well. [sentence as received] The commission has defined the fundamental criteria. In consultation with foreign specialists, it is intensively working to prepare the chapters of this constitution. The first chapter has been finished and is under discussion, work is going on for other chapters.

Mr. Meksi concentrated in particular in the chapter on the fundamental freedoms and rights of the nationals, which is presented for discussion to the Assembly upon the initiative of the president of the Republic, stressing that it has also been discussed in the Venice meeting. At the end, Mr. Meksi said that the compilation of the constitution is not easy and he demanded a term of three months for its presentation to the People's Assembly for discussion.

Then Mr. Meksi responded to the questions of the deputies mainly related to the delays in drafting this project and the main changes between the first draft and the new one under discussion.

The deputies agreed on the deadline asked by Mr. Meksi for the completion of the draft of the constitution.

At the beginning of this session, the People's Assembly examined the draft law on statistics. This draft law ensures a unique functioning of the Institute of Statistics throughout the country. It aims at reorganization of the tasks and functions through the creation of respective sectors in each administrative unit of the country.

The People's Assembly will continue proceedings on March 17 before noon.

1993 Budget Expenses Detailed

AU1703163093 Tirana ATA in English 1104 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Tirana, March 17 (ATA)—The expenditures of the state budget for 1993, which the People's Assembly approved only a few days ago, are to a considerable degree expenditure of social character, mainly to pay the salaries and pensions, to pay the people on assistance, for the economic aid, etc., which together take 36 percent of the budget expenditures.

A very important measure in the state budget expenditure for this year is the 28 percent increase of the salaries, 25 percent increase of the pensions in cities, 18 percent increase of the payments of the people on assistance and those who need aid, beginning with February this year.

Material expenditure by education and health sectors take a special place in the expenditures of economic character.

Nevertheless, the demands of some sectors, such as that of health, are greater than planned. This claims for new ways and possibilities, including foreign aid.

Meksi, British Ambassador View Relations

AU1603201693 Tirana ATA in English 1909 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Tirana, March 16 (ATA)—On March 16, Premier Meksi met the ambassador of the Great Britain, Mr. Patrick Fairweather, and exchanged views about the relations between our two countries, British investments in Albania, and the situation in our region.

Mr. Meksi expressed the interest and readiness of the democratic government to give an impulse to the bilateral relations in the economic field, stimulating British capital for investments in agriculture, industry, telecommunication, tourism, etc. He also pointed to the importance of strengthening contacts among the specialists of the two countries to find and define the concrete fields of this cooperation. In this relation of interest is the organization soon of a seminar in Great Britain regarding the problem of foreign investments. Mr. Fairweather guaranteed Mr. Meksi for the successful organization of this activity. In the meeting they also exchanged views on the situation in our region and pointed to the indispensability of preventing an outbreak of a conflict in Kosovo, devoting attention to the strengthening of Europe's pressure on Serbia.

Government Criticized for Political Dismissals

AU1703193993 Sofia in Bulgarian 12 Mar 93 p 1

[Commentary by Rumyana Khristova: "Berov Is Supposed To Follow the U.S. President's Example"]

[Text] Before the opening of yesterday's cabinet session, the prime minister unmistakably declared that the behavior of a government official who attends Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] antigovernment rallies can only be described as incorrect and disloyal. The cabinet's spokesman, in turn, further elaborating on the subject, added that whoever does not like the government should resign from his post so that he may be free to participate in demonstrations. Minutes after the incident Stefan Sofiyanski [chief of the government's telecommunications services] walked out of the cabinet meeting. Reporters did not fail to notice the absence of his usual smile, despite yesterday's successful conclusion of a meeting held by telecommunications companies from the Balkan countries, Moldova, and Ukraine that secured Bulgaria's access to their joint power grid.

Just returning from Brussels at Sofia Airport, Deputy Prime Minister Valentin Karabashev expressed his suprise that Aleksandur Bozhkov, executive director of the Privatization Agency has not yet resigned. Why should the deputy prime minister expect him to do so, after the agency's Supervisory Board has so far never complained about Mr. Bozhkov's work? The explanation that he has failed to complete a privatization deal seems rather controversial considering the recent failure of two consecutive privatization bids in Karabashev's own ministry. Nevertheless, a special government meeting has been scheduled for next week to decide on Bozhov's future.

Yesterday again the finance minister proposed that oblast administrators should voluntarily resign, so that the prime minister may replace them with people who are loyal to his cabinet. There are rumors that the expected replacement of the Ruse Oblast administrator is planned at Ahmed Dogan's special request.

The fact that Prof. Berov's government, from the very first day of taking office, started a series of dismissals, can hardly be explained by the fake argument that some brilliant civil servants have been suddenly unearthed. The frequent allusions to the fact that President Clinton has dismissed not one, but 4,000 civil servants in the United States, is absolutely preposterous if we compare the different administrative structures of the two countries. Why, for example, does no one mention the much more similar conditions in Italy, where the frequent change of cabinets has never touched the lower ranks of the civil service?

In examining the motives prompting the recent personnel changes in our country, the most questionable argument seems to be the fact that the government's selective approach applies to the key posts the officials in question are occupying rather than to their personality.

Berov Announces Additional Dismissals

AU1703204693 Sofia BTA in English 2005 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Sofia, March 17 (BTA)—Today Prime Minister Lyuben Berov met in parliament with the leadership of the parliamentary groups of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), of the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS) and of the New Union for Democracy—a new parliamentary group that split from the SDS.

"I wish to inform the parliamentary groups of the forthcoming replacement of the chairmen of the Posts and Telecommunications Committee—Mr. Stefan Sofiyanski, the Committee of Tourism—Mr. Slaveyko Bozhinov and the Forests Committee—Mr. Nikolay Matakov," Prof. Berov said before the meeting. He said that there were candidates to these posts but declined to mention their names.

"I will also inform them of a possible public reaction, which I believe to be uncalled for, to the changes adopted by the cabinet on Monday [15 March] concerning the rules for granting free medicines to socially disadvantaged groups of the population," the prime minister added. The public reaction was strong and the measures were called unpopular. In a declaration sent to BTA the Bulgarian UNICEF National Committee states that the adoption of such a decision in the conditions of an economic crisis and the grave social and economic problems experienced by many families will have dangerous consequences for the nation.

After the meeting the prime minister said that he had received support only on some of the raised issues.

According to Prof. Berov, Stefan Sofiyanski has shown disloyalty to the cabinet by taking part in an antigovernment rally of the SDS. When he took office in late December 1992, Prof. Berov said that the chiefs of committees and departments satisfied him and that he did not intend to make personnel changes.

The leaders of the parliamentary group of the BSP expressed support for the idea to hold regular consultations on issues which have given rise to public reactions and are of importance for the stability of the government, BSP floor leader Nora Ananieva said after the meeting.

Mrs. Ananieva said that the Socialists criticized the prime minister for the somewhat overhasty and unprepared from the point of view of public response decision on free medicines. A government which has declared itself to be a social one should be extremely careful when taking such decisions was the opinion of all participants in the meeting.

No candidates to head the committees were discussed today but this is forthcoming, Mrs. Ananieva added.

The leaders of the parliamentary group of the SDS walked out of the meeting fifteen minutes after its opening. "It turned out that Mr. Berov wants our blessing for the dismissals and on the free medicines issue," said Mrs. Zlatka Ruseva, deputy floor leader of the parliamentary group of the SDS. "We told Mr. Berov that we are in opposition and that we are against these steps of the government and will struggle against them," Mrs. Ruseva added.

According to today's issue of the 24 CHASA daily, the resignation of BTA Director General Ivo Indzhev is expected to be demanded at tomorrow's session of the Council of Ministers.

This evening, after being asked by a BTA reporter to comment on these reports in the press, Prime Minister Lyuben Berov said that the BTA director general will be dismissed tomorrow.

Before his meeting earlier today with the leaders of the parliamentary groups, Mr. Berov said that he would not raise the issue of the replacement of the BTA director general because according to him, it is not an issue of major importance.

BTA employees have started a sign-in against a possible removal of Mr. Ivo Indzhev from the post of BTA director general.

A letter to the president and the prime minister from the heads of the BTA Editorial Staffs reads:

"The campaign launched against BTA and its present management, suggesting that the latter has led the news agency to economic ruin and that the agency provides its subscribers with partial information became ever more apparent over the past few weeks.

"As is known, to the Council of Ministers in particular, the BTA has been supporting itself for many years and has not taken a single penny from the national budget. What is more, over the past two years and under the leadership of its director general the BTA not only managed to survive in these difficult times but achieved economic stability. This made it possible to considerably raise the salaries of its employees and to guarantee its normal work as a news agency."

BSDP Leaders Meet With Zhelev

AU1703161093 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] On 17 March President Zhelyu Zhelev received the Executive Bureau of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party [BSDP], which handed him a declaration in which the BSDP decisively opposes the accusations against the president and the presidential institutions voiced at the recent national conference of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS].

Petur Dertliev [BSDP leader] said that he expects elections in the fall, and that those elections will be the last chance for the center to take a part in the leadership of the country.

In conclusion he said that with its recent imprudent policy the SDS annihilates the wonderful idea about the future of the entire nation.

Berov Meets Assembly Factions Representatives

AU1703192893 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] On 17 March at the National Assembly Prime Minister Lyuben Berov met representatives of the three parliamentary factions. Issues related to the government's activity were discussed.

Mr. Berov said that at the 18 March meeting of the Council of Ministers he will request the dismissal of certain chairmen of National Assembly committees.

Dimitrova: SDS Government Toppled by 'Conspiracy'

AU1703160893 Sofia BTA in English 1457 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Sofia, March 17 (BTA)—"The previous government was toppled by a conspiracy," Bulgarian Vice-President Blaga Dimitrova says in an extensive interview for STANDARD NEWS, commenting on the fate of the government of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS).

According to Mrs. Dimitrova, the plot was devised by different forces and eroded stability in Bulgaria. "The confidence of Western Europe, of banks and institutions in processes going on in Bulgaria was seriously shaken," according to the vice-president.

Mrs. Dimitrova notes with regret President Zhelyu Zhelev "took part in the overthrow of the previous cabinet." Yet she says the SDS cabinet itself "may have to blame for many things."

The vice-president wonders why Dr. Zhelev "is relying on forces outside the democratic process of radical changes, on forces, which polled a small percent of the popular vote... And why the president has turned his back on the SDS."

The vice-president says she is ready to sponsor a meeting between Dr. Zhelev and SDS leaders. The last few months saw strained relations between the coalition and Dr. Zhelev, its first leader. The SDS National Conference three days ago issued a resolution, which demanded the president's resignation, charging he was constantly exceeding his constitutional powers in an attempt to set up a personal regime. "When I saw the resolution, I expressed disagreement and walked out of the meeting right away," Mrs. Dimitrova says in her interview.

Mrs. Dimitrova says if the Bulgarian nation demands that Dr. Zhelev resigns, she would also resign her post. "We both got elected on the same ticket," she reminds. The vice-president stresses the most important thing now is to preserve stability in Bulgaria.

"Now, while there still isn't a cabinet with a clear-cut democratic programme, while parliament is unstable, with a shifting majority, it is the presidential institution that should be a pillar of stability," the vice-president says, asked if the team's resignation would erode or strengthen stability in this country.

According to Mrs. Dimitrova, Dr. Zhelev can act as a balancing force in this country, "provided he shakes off subversive influence." The vice-president says Dr. Zhelev admitted some mistakes and this is a trait all statesmen should possess.

Mrs. Dimitrova does not deny President Zhelev's merits in preserving peace in Bulgaria amidst the ongoing war in the Balkans.

Aleksandrov, Hungarian Defense Minister Meet

AU1703182093 Sofia BTA in English 1753 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Budapest, March 17 (BTA)—A proposal by Bulgarian Defence Minister Valentin Aleksandrov for maximum closeness among the general staffs of the Danubian countries (along the line connecting Vienna, Bratislava, Prague, Bucharest and Sofia) was high on the agenda of the talks between the defence ministers of Bulgaria and Hungary, which started here yesterday. Mr. Aleksandrov first advanced the concept of Danubian cooperation during his recent visit to Moscow.

The Hungarian Defence Ministry categorically denied a report in the Bulgarian 24 CHASA daily that Bulgarian military works would be making equipment and spare parts for the Hungarian Army. This has never been considered, said Lajos Erdely, spokesman for the Hungarian Defence Ministry, quoted by the Hungarian media today.

Valentin Aleksandrov will be received by Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall tomorrow.

Vulchev Views Justice System Independence

AU1703195193 Sofia BULGARSKA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 12 Mar 93 p 1

[Interview with Justice Minister Dr. Misho Vulchev by Stoyan Petrov; place and date not given: "Law Is Basic Regulator of Social Relations in Rule-Of-Law State"]

[Text] [Petrov] Mr. Minister, what moral principle guides you in your long-lasting career as a jurist?

[Vulchev] I am a jurist of the old school. I have many principles, but I always remember the first one: The law must be the basic regulator of social relations in a rule-of-law state. This principle has led me and is leading me in my activity as a jurist, and now, as minister of justice.

[Petrov] You initiated the Law on State Employees and proposed to make the state administration independent of leadership changes.

[Vulchev] My idea on creating an independent administration, immune to hesitations and changes at each governmental change is an old one. Undoubtedly, every minister is entitled to seek and select his team. However, the basic core of the administration should be composed of professionals, who are secure in their jobs. You can see this in every rule-of-law state, and especially in Western Europe. I would like to think that we also could begin this process. However, the mere adoption of a Law on State Employees will hardly guarantee any successes. Nevertheless, it will be the basis upon which we will construct an independent administration.

I know the people in the ministry I lead have been there for a long time. I came to continue a process that has already begun. I would like to establish continuity, which guarantees an atmosphere of calm and security. I think that those few months of escalating tension are not conducive to creating a suitable work atmosphere. There are many things that we must accomplish.

[Petrov] What is your opinion on the role of jurists in Bulgaria and the depoliticization of the court system?

[Vulchev] Indeed, the problems of the jurists in Bulgaria and the East European countries are broadly discussed. I participated in many meetings that dealt with this issue. There was a good reason for this. During the long years of totalitarian regime in Bulgaria jurisprudence was placed on an ideological foundation. The so-called socialist law was studied. That law is rather different from the one used in the developed Western countries. For example, since 1950 trade law has not been taught in Bulgaria. This fact had a substantial effect in every area. Only now have we restored the study of trade law at Sofia's St. Kliment Okhridski University.

Formally, we already depoliticized the judicial system. The people are not members of political parties and movements. This is a basic factor required by the law.

[Petrov] Nevertheless, is there not anything that concerns you?

[Vulchev] What concerns me personally is the elimination of those deformities that accumulated in the 45 years of totalitarian regime. Their elimination indeed cannot be achieved at once. A long process is necessary. We must teach the people to think in a different manner. You can see yourself that now everyone speaks about democratization and understands something different when he discuss this concept....

[Petrov] Do you envision interference by the legislative branch in the work of the justice organs?

[Vulchev] Let me answer this question in the following manner. When the National Assembly has the legal power to adopt certain decisions it should freely adopt, amend, and cancel them. However, it is the justice organs that should implement those decisions. Therefore, let us view the activity of the justice organs as the implementation of the National Assembly's decisions, without any interference on its past.

Industry Minister Bikov Visits Latin America

AU1803094193 Sofia BTA in English 0749 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, March 18 (BTA)—A Bulgarian delegation led by Industry Minister Rumen Bikov made a two-day working visit here. The delegation held meetings with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Industrialists and associations of fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and leather producers and pharmacists.

The delegation was received by Argentine Minister of the Economy Domingo Felipe Cavallo.

Before leaving for Lima, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Mr. Bikov made the following statement for BTA:

"In these two days in Buenos Aires we talked about our intentions on trade, joint ventures and the processing and export to third countries of certain articles."

According to Mr. Bikov, capacities in Bulgaria can be used to process imported fruit, vegetables, meat and hides, which can be exported or sold at home. Argentine makers of leather and components for the pharmaceuticals industry displayed interest in Bulgarian firms.

For his part, the Argentinian Minister of the Economy Cavallo showed interest in the import of machinery from Bulgaria. He supported the idea to transfer goods through eastern markets.

Economy Committee Approves Goods as Payments

AU1703142493 Sofia BTA in English 1347 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Sofia, March 17 (BTA)—The Parliamentary Economic Committee today approved the export of Bulgarian goods as a means to cover trade deficit to the former socialist countries. The committee recommended to the Finance Ministry to appropriate funds in the 1993 budget to continue these operations.

Bulgaria has a trade deficit with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia and we have to decide how to cover it, said Aleksandur Tomov MP of the Bulgarian Socialist Party after the committee's meeting.

This country is facing financial difficulties and cannot pay in money. Export of commodities, especially ones unsalable on other markets, would be the best settlement, said Mr. Tomov. According to him, it is in the state's interest to cover the trade deficit in this way.

KNSB Leadership Meets DPS Representatives

AU1703182493 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] On 17 March a meeting took place between the leaders of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria [KNSB] and the parliamentary faction of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS], the KNSB Press Center reports.

The participants discussed joint initiatives on establishing regional employment programs. Issues related to the National Assembly's legislative activity also were discussed.

SDS Elects Savov Parliamentary Leader

AU1703183293 Sofia BTA in English 1614 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Sofia, March 17 (BTA)—Stefan Savov, 69, leader of the Democratic Party affiliated to the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) and former chairman of the National Assembly, was elected floor leader of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) by the vast majority of MP's today. Yesterday the National Coordinating Council—the SDS top leadership—unanimously named Mr. Savov to head the parliamentary SDS. No other nominations were discussed.

In his first statement for the press as SDS floor leader, Stefan Savov said he would try to regulate relations between the National Coordinating Council and the parliamentary group. A SDS national conference in December adopted a resolution that the National Coordinating Council should be the coalition's supreme body, which alone can take political decisions. At the SDS National Conference on March 13 and 14, Mr. Savov stressed the relations between the supreme leadership and the parliamentary group should only be coordinated. Several months ago the parliamentary group had to carry out decisions of the Coordinating Council in a great hurry, said Stefan Savov.

Savov is considered one of the hard-liners in the SDS. The coalition members differ in their attitude towards him. Leaders of the smaller SDS affiliates believe the Democratic Party is trying to usurp the SDS. Before the national conference, Elka Konstantinova, leader of the Radical Democratic Party, and representatives of other SDS affiliates, expressed the view that Filip Dimitrov should resign and pointed Stefan Savov as a replacement. However, the question of Filip Dimitrov's replacement was not raised at the conference.

Former Finance Minister Ivan Kostov, an independent, and Nikolay Khristov of the Radical Democratic Party, were elected deputy floor leaders today. Zlatka Ruseva of the Democratic Party and Ekaterina Mikhaylova of the United Christian Democratic Centre will continue to act as deputy floor leaders. Khristo Markov and Emil Yurukov of the Democratic Party were elected secretaries of the parliamentary group.

National Assembly Ratifies Treaty With Ukraine

AU1703201293 Sofia BTA in English 1921 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Sofia, March 17 (BTA)—Parliament today ratified the Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation Between Bulgaria and Ukraine. The document was signed on October 5, 1992 by Presidents Zhelyu Zhelev of Bulgaria and Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine.

The treaty is a prerequisite for strengthening and promoting bilateral relations, said Yunal Lyutfi MP of the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms, deputy chairman of parliament's Foreign Policy Committee.

He stressed the treaty grants maximum rights to ethnic Bulgarians in Ukraine.

Supreme Judicial Council Elects Deputy Chairman

AU1703182693 Sofia BTA in English 1704 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Sofia, March 17 (BTA)—At a meeting today, the Supreme Judicial Council discussed false tip-offs about bombs planted at buildings of courts and prosecutor offices, the council's spokesman, Vladislav Stoyanov, reports.

Such tips have been frequent lately, especially in Sofia. According to the Supreme Judicial Council, district courts and prosecutor offices were closed for about thirty work days this year on tip-offs about explosive devices. This led to postponement of hearings and slowed down prosecutors' work.

The Supreme Judicial Council today recommended that the Ministry of Justice provides equipment to introduce an admittance regime for court and prosecution buildings.

The meeting elected Bozhidar Kolev, so far chairman of the Supreme Court's Civil Division, as deputy chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council. The council appointed or re-appointed 15 prosecutors, 32 judges and 14 examining magistrates at the National Investigative Service and 5 examining magistrates at the Military Prosecutor's Office.

IBO Chairman Hansen Arrives on Official Visit

AU1703183493 Sofia BTA in English 1543 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Sofia, March 17 (BTA)—Michel Hansen, director general of the International Labour Office (IBO), arrived on an official visit here today at the invitation of the Bulgarian Government.

Mr. Hansen told the press he was going to discuss with representatives of the government, the trade unions and the employers programmes for cooperation between the IBO and Bulgaria. He said a team of experts of the International Labour Organization had worked on the programmes. During his visit, the guest will discuss the state of tripartite cooperation (government, trade unions, employers) in Bulgaria.

Michel Hansen will be received by President Zhelyu Zhelev and will meet with Prime Minister Lyuben Berov and National Assembly Chairman Aleksandur Yordanov.

Rakovski Legion Plans Law, Order Actions

AU1703193793 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 12 Mar 93 p 2

[DEMOKRATSIYA staff report: "Rakovski Legion Threatens With Reserve Officers Counterattacks"]

[Text] At a special news conference held at the end of the Euromil [European Organization of Military Associations] session that was recently organized by the Rakovski Officers' Legion in our country, the subject of the military personnel's social problems was replaced by a notorious declaration by the Bulgarian Officers' Legion and by the announcement on behalf of some Bulgarian officers about their intentions "to organize their own bodyguard, and law and order forces, capable of shutting the mouths of insolent mobs and vicious political cheer leaders." In front of the official Euromil delegates from Germany and the Netherlands, the members of the legion confirmed their intention to organize a propaganda march of reserve soldiers and former militia men on Bulgarian Military Heroes Day, 6 May, in reaction to demonstrations of "fake people's indignation." When the representatives of the Rakovski Legion asked Colonel Ralf Wentzel, the vice president of Euromil, the provocative question, how the authorities in his country would react to people's demonstrations on National Day he answered in his typically German cool manner: "With calm and common sense."

Delegate Disapproves of European Minority Policy

AU1703204193 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 12 Mar 93 p 7

[Article by Ivan Genov, deputy of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly: "Bulgaria, Europe, and Minorities' Rights"]

[Text] The winter session of the Council of Europe's Parliament Assembly adopted the text of an additional protocol to the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Convention on individuals belonging to national minorities. Within the forthcoming months the Council of Europe's Ministers' Committee is expected make a pronouncement on the subject, after which the procedure of signing the protocol is scheduled to begin at the first summit meeting attended by heads of state and government leaders from the Council of Europe's member countries.

The rights of minorities or of individuals belonging to minorities, to put it more precisely, is a global problem that Europe is trying to resolve on an expanded regional basis. The requirement for a well-balanced legal solution, which should not unnecessarily emphasize the political implications of this extremely difficult problem, is evident.

As far as its legal nature is concerned, the additional protocol is an international treaty that claims its proper place in European human rights legislation. The fact that the protocol is expected to become part of the European Human Rights Convention guarantees its control functions within the convention, also in the context of certain fundamental rights.

Within a period of three weeks the draft protocol underwent dramatic developments that adjusted and linked the Europe-wide resolution to the universal international standards embodied in Article 27 of the International Civil and Political Rights Pact. The philosophical concept of the individual nature of minority rights was adopted as a whole, which makes the international document realistic and acceptable.

The collective approach to minority rights was rejected, since it would be likely to involve unpredictable political implications. Individuals belonging to an ethnic minority and not the minorities as such are the subjects of the legislation.

Though duly appreciating the topical nature and positive aspects of the protocol, I consider it inadmissible to overlook several questions which cannot be wholeheartedly approved.

By deliberately rejecting all reservations and frequently omitting the formula "according to national legislation," the additional protocol is forcibly trying to impose a thoroughly uniform model of minorities rights applying to Europe as a whole. It disregards the specific conditions of different regions. The situation in the Balkans where minorities' rights are likely to prompt territorial claims differs entirely from conditions in Northern Europe where even the introduction of collective rights is hardly involving any dangers. The protocol does not provide any external or internal security guarantees. Nevertheless, the scope of minorities' rights by all means depends on the extent of national security guarantees and on the socioeconomic development of a given country.

Despite the individual approach to minorities' rights, the additional protocol has not overcome the initial intention of introducing collective minority rights. Certain parts of the text suggest collective rights (such as Item 5 of the preamble, as well as Articles 11, 12, and others).

The additional protocol dilutes the differences between various kinds of minorities, communities, and groups. The actual concept of ethnic diversity is placed under the common denominator of "national minority." We should point out that in December 1992 the UN General Assembly adopted a declaration guaranteeing the human rights of individuals belonging to national, ethnic, religious, or language minorities.

According to the Geneva meeting on national minority questions (held in July 1991) "the existence of ethnic, cultural, language, or religious differences does not necessarily lead to the emergence of national minorities."

Our Bulgarian Constitution legally confirms the real situation in Bulgaria, namely the monolithic nature of the country and the monolithic structures of the Bulgarian state. Different ethnic communities and groups do exist in our country but not national minorities from the legal point of view.

Those who fully endorse the additional protocol should answer the following constitutional questions:

Are they in favor of a binational or multinational Bulgarian state, which would inevitably involve autonomous formations, or do they prefer to preserve the current model of a monolithic Bulgarian state with different communities and groups, that are nevertheless part of the nation and are developing along with it?

Are they in favor of introducing two official languages in administrative and legal institutions in mixed population areas? Do they differentiate between the study of the mother tongue and education in one's maternal language? Should various ethnic groups in Bulgaria isolate themselves, or should they rather be integrated with the rest of the population?

Is it possible to endorse a text authorizing individuals belonging to national minorities to establish political parties, while realizing that this is in full contradiction with Article 11, Paragraph 4 of the Constitution? Or, to put it more precisely, should we promote parties following separatist trends, such as Adem Kenan's Turkish Democratic Party?

I am convinced that a just and reliable solution to the minority problem requires generally acceptable international parameters for the peaceful development of nations and of various minority groups within them, while assessing the conditions prevailing in the individual countries and peaceful bilateral relations.

A uniform Bulgarian stand versus the Strasbourg Ministers' Committee is required. The additional protocol could be fully endorsed, as long as reservations are allowed and the text is entirely purged of elements suggesting a collective approach.

National Newspaper Association Established

AU1703202993 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 12 Mar 93 p 2

[TRUD Staff report: "Bulgarian Newspapers Are Forming an Association"]

[Text] An Association of Daily and Periodical Publications in Bulgaria was established yesterday with the assistance of the "Open Society" Foundation.

The objective of the new organization is to protect the common economic, professional, and legal interests of its members in their relations with state, communal, and private institutions. In this respect the new association intends to rely on the assistance of the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers, which has its headquarters in Paris. The federation already conveyed its greetings and invited the Bulgarian association to become a member. Readiness for cooperation was also expressed by the U.S. Forum of Freedom, which promised consultative and technical assistance to the Bulgarian newspapermen. The association's executive council was elected at yesterday's constituent meeting. Nikolay Stefanov, deputy editor in chief of the daily TRUD is also among the members.

Yugoslavia 'Discontented' With Havel Remarks

LD1703152593 Prague CTK in English 1451 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Belgrade March 17 (CTK)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Yugoslav Federation has made it clear to the Czech Embassy in Belgrade that it is discontented with remarks by top Czech officials on the possibility of foreign intervention in Bosnia and Hercegovina, CTK learnt today.

Czech Charge d'Affaires to Yugoslavia Josef Hejsek told CTK it was not a protest but rather an expression of dissatisfaction with statements by Czech President Vaclav Havel and the ministers of foreign affairs and defence, Josef Zieleniec and Antonin Baudys, and of concern about a possible worsening of mutual relations. He said the Foreign Ministry's representatives were concerned that relations between the Czech Republic and Yugoslavia do not deteriorate.

A Foreign Ministry's official report published by the TANJUG news agency states that an official from the Czech Republic's embassy was told that bellicose statements by top Czech officials are coming at a time when representatives of Yugoslavia, Serbia and the Bosnian Serbs are exerting intensive efforts aimed at finding a just settlement of the conflict acceptable to all the sides involved.

By the negative stand on the civil war in Bosnia and Hercegovina and by its support for war alternative the Czech Republic has placed itself among the countries favouring the spread and deepening of religious and ethnic clashes in Bosnia and Hercegovina. It thus puts in question the traditional friendship between the Czech and Serbian peoples, the report says.

Hejsek said the indignation of Yugoslav bodies reached its peak evidently with an article published by the daily "LIDOVE NOVINY" which says that Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic bears his share of responsibility for the tragic events on the territory of the former Yugoslavia and calls for his international isolation similar to that of the former Austrian President Kurt Waldheim.

Havel Visits Austria, Holds Temelin Talks

WA1603141093

For reportage on the visit of President Havel to Austria, including his talks with Austrian President Klestil on the Temelin nuclear power plant, see the Austria section of the 16 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Coalition Partner Accuses ODS of Step to Left

AU1703150493 Prague CTK in English 1411 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Brno March 15 (CTK)— Christian Democratic Party (KDS) Deputy Chairman Pavel Tollner today characterized Saturday's decision by the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) not to support a bill on restitution of church property as in essence a very surprising step, unfortunately in a negative sense.

I think this step of the ODS Executive Council cannot be classified other than as an unexpected step of the ODS to the left, in the direction of the liberal center, Tollner told a press conference.

A KDS statement called the announcement of the decision by ODS chairman and Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus as an expression of a fundamental misunderstanding of the church's importance by domestic and international standards.

It is necessary to say that future prospective injustice will not injure the church, the statement reads. The Czech Republic, however, will be hurt above all in the eyes of the public internationally. It will also be hurt at home, because we will complicate and limit the activity of many charitable and social organizations this way. The saddest part is, the injustice will arise by law.

[Prague TELEGRAF in Czech on 16 March on page 3 carries a 100-word report on the disagreement of the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL), another Czech Government coalition party, with the ODS decision: "If we correctly understand the official written statement from the 13 March meeting of the ODS, the ODS advocates the method of enumeration [for property to be returned to the Church], with which we disagree," KDU-CSL Press Spokesman Jaroslav Orel said yesterday, adding that the KDU-CSL considers this method to be unworkable in practice. The KDU-CSL also objects to the intended narrow range of this method, as it provides only for the return of facilities needed for religious services."]

ODS Opposes Handing Over Shares to Slovakia

AU1703152493 Prague CTK in English 2147 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Prague March 15 (CTK)— The Civic Democratic Party (ODS) Executive Committee agrees that the Czech Government should not hand to Slovakia the shares invested by Slovak citizens in Czech enterprises during last year's first wave of coupon privatization, ODS Spokeswoman Jana Petrova told CTK today.

The first wave of coupon privatization in the former Czechoslovakia was implemented jointly by the Czech and Slovak Republics, while the second wave is to be carried out separately this year.

According to Czech Minister for the Administration and Privatization of National Property Jiri Skalicky, the Czech Republic hesitates to hand over the shares to Slovakia.

Skalicky said last Thursday [11 March] that the Czech Republic' stand is based on the Slovak Republic's approach to the settlement of other controversial issues

concerning property of the former Czechoslovak Federation. He said that the Czech Republic is considering appropriate restrictive measures in this connection.

One of possibilities will be not to hand over the shares to Slovak shareholders at all and to use the dividends from these shares to repay Slovakia's state debt in the Czech Republic. Another possibility is to hand over the shares only after Slovakia repays its debts. It is also possible to hand over the shares but restrict their owners' rights to them until mutual claims between the two republics are settled. Representatives of the two republics' governments commissions for the division of federal property discussed the issue in Prague last Wednesday [10 March].

Slovak Finance Minister Julius Toth officially called these proposals a certain form of state dirigisme. He said that if the Czech Republic tabled the problem, Slovakia might demand settlement of other controversial questions which have not been raised thus far. This would not contribute to further peaceful coexistence, Toth said.

'No Legal Basis' for Defense Council

AU1703210393 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 13 Mar 93 p 2

["jem"-signed report: "The State Defense Council Has No Decisionmaking Powers"]

[Text] The State Defense Council appointed by President Vaclav Havel cannot exist as a state agency but only as a consultative body to the president of the republic, Milena Polakova, director of the Government Office for Legislature and Public Administration, told us yesterday.

As she went on to say, her office had studied at the request of Vladimir Suman, chairman of the parliamentary committee for legal protection and security, an analysis by Docent Ivan Prusa from the [Charles University] Law School addressed to the presidential office. It transpires from this analysis that the appointment of members of the State Defense Council is invalid and that the Council itself has no decisionmaking powers. According to Milena Polakova, Docent Prusa is essentially right because in the law on ending the Czechoslovak Federation, which transferred the powers of the federal parliament, government, and courts to the republics, there is no mention of the State Defense Council. It therefore follows from the standpoint of the government's legislative office that there exists no legal basis for the State Defense Council make decisions at the level of a constitutional body on major issues concerning the security of the Czech Republic.

The State Defense Council was appointed by President Vaclav Havel on the basis of background materials prepared by his military office. Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus was appointed its chairman. Other members of the State Defense Council are ministers Ivan Kocarnik, Karel Dyba, Vladimir Dlouhy, Antonin Baudys, Jan Ruml, and Frantisek Benda. The Czech Army's General Staff is represented by its chief, Karel Pezl.

Russia Proposes 'Nuclear' Treaty

AU1703205793 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 13 Mar 93 p 3

["(dj)"-signed report: "Waste Fuel Transport Is Possible"]

[Text] Prague—In mid-February this year Russia made a proposal to the Czech Republic regarding the conclusion of a "nuclear" treaty. Within its framework, we would buy Russian fuel rods for our nuclear power plants and export fuel waste. Engineer Roman Hubacek, director of the Nuclear Energy Department at the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade, gave his opinion on the subject.

"We drafted our own proposal and sent it recently to the companies it concerns. By the end of next week, they will present suggestions regarding the principles on which the possible treaty with Russia should be based. They are the following companies: Energoproject, Czech Electric Power Plants, Skodaexport, Diana, and Skoda Praha," Eng. Hubacek said. He also said that the ministry's experts will pass judgment on these suggestions.

It is questionable whether the proposed treaty is advantageous to Czech foreign trade policy. Reportedly, Russians are trying to acquire exclusive orders for deliveries of fresh nuclear fuel. If we signed the treaty, we would be expected to buy this fuel during the entire lifetime of our power plants. "We would oblige ourselves, once again, to be completely dependent on Russian deliveries and would be given no chance of making a choice on a technological or economic basis. This would be the supplier's dictate.

In the strategic perspective, the Russian offer to transport waste fuel away would not be advantageous, anyway. Our interest is to complete our nuclear waste handling system, starting with intermediary storage and ending with permanent storage.

According to Eng. Hubacek, it is expected that the Russian delegation should arrive before the end of March. However, we must ask ourselves whether it is necessary to sign the proposed "nuclear" treaty at all, since we have concluded general agreements with the Russian Federation on trade cooperation.

IMF Approves Loan To Support Currency Reserves

LD1703220193 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 2000 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] In Washington today, the International Monetary Fund approved a loan to the Czech Republic valued at about $243 million to support the foreign currency reserves of the National Bank.

As an assistant to the executive director of the fund, Jiri Jonas told CTK that the first part of the loan, about $97 million, will be released immediately. In view of the favorable development of the foreign currency reserves in the Czech Republic, it is likely that the rest of the loan, within the framework of an emergency credit, will not be drawn upon.

StB Secret Archives Reportedly Flown to Cuba

AU1803095993 Prague TELEGRAF in Czech 15 Mar 93 p 1

[Marcel Pok report: "Who and What Were Flown by a Special Flight to Cuba?"]

[Text] The archives concealing the secrecy and crimes of the Communist Party [KSC] and State Security [StB] are still—as far as the public are concerned—shrouded in mystery. The 17 November Commission only issued a partial report and, it seems, covered up the real heart of the matter. One of the many incidents that took place immediately after November 1989 is either an example of the leadership's inconsistency or the agreements between the former Civic Forum and KSC.

During the night of 3-4 December, a special airplane—flight OK BYV—was supposed to have taken off, according to the plan, for Cuba, to where some of the StB's intelligence archives, a list of highly placed agents among dissident groups and the KSC leadership, and part of the list of KGB agents in Czechoslovakia were to have been transported. Not even the Soviet Union was safe enough for such important documents because it was also undergoing change from socialism to reforms. The special flight, piloted by Captain Ancicka, should have taken off from Ruzyne just before midnight on 3 December 1989. During that evening, extremely heavy boxes were loaded on board the airplane under the direct supervision of either Mr. Lorenc or Mr. Kincl. A group of at least 14 people—who, according to witnesses, were under the influence of drugs—were then accompanied to the aircraft. The flight was delayed until 0900 on 4 December due to inclement weather and technical problems. Thanks to this, during a stopover in Montreal, it met up with the scheduled flight to Prague. Will anyone from the Security and Intelligence Service, military counterintelligence service, or Interior Ministry commission investigating the StB's crimes look into this incident or will it end up like the Norbert, Klin, Vlna, Zasah, and Antonin operations, the bugging of the Anticommunist Alliance by the Federal Security and Information Service, the muddled Vysehrad operation, and the many other incidents that could have cleared up many things and convicted the guilty parties to whom—because of laziness or bad will—insufficient attention has been paid?

One-Third of Citizens Declare Themselves Moravians

AU1703145793 Prague CTK in English 1308 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Prague March 12 (CTK)— About one-third (28 percent) of the Czech Republic's citizens declare themselves Moravians and 1.4 percent believe they are Silesians, according to a poll conducted by the Ecoma public opinion agency in late January—early February among 972 respondents from the Czech Republic.

The poll revealed that mostly in Moravia people declare themselves Moravians (64.6 percent) while in the Czech lands only 4.5 percent said they are Moravians. More than 34 percent of respondents from Moravia believe they belong to a separate people while a large part of citizens from the Czech lands perceives Moravians as a national group (30.4 percent). Only a very small part of those polled believe that there are no differences whatsoever between Czechs and Moravians—9.9 per cent in the Czech lands and 5.7 percent in Moravia.

The majority of the people in the Czech lands (40.5 percent) as well as in Moravia (48.0 percent) consider the Moravian-Silesian issue an important problem but not a decisive one. About 20 percent of the respondents from Moravia think that the problem is very important and that the Czech Republic's future depends on how it is settled. In the Czech lands this view is held by 16.8 percent of the population.

[Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 13 March on page 2 carries a 500-word "iv"-signed report on the above poll, which adds the poll's results on the Czech Republic citizens' views on the republic's optimal territorial arrangement: "The relatively largest support is enjoyed by the present state of affairs, that is, the existence of 75 districts on the territory of the Czech Republic (this alternative is supported by 27 percent of respondents in Bohemia, 23.5 percent in North Moravia, and 14.5 percent in South Moravia). The republic's division into 15 to 30 regions is the number two choice in Bohemia (20.2 percent), but is supported by only 14.2 percent of respondents in Moravia. The republic's division into a Czech land and a Moravian-Silesian land, on the other hand, has the support of 25.5 percent of the people in Moravia but of only 13.5 percent of the people in Bohemia."]

Complete Text of General Agreement for 1993

AU1603182693 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 12 Mar 93 p 9

["General Agreement of the Czech Republic for 1993"]

[Text] Part 1

General Stipulations

The General Agreement has been concluded in the interest of maintaining social peace between the Government of the Czech Republic (hereafter just the government), the Confederation of Czech Entrepreneurs and Employers in the Czech Republic (hereafter just the employers), and the Czech Moravian Chamber of Trade Unions and the Confederation of Art and Culture for the trade unions (hereafter just the trade unions).

Article 1

(1) The General Agreement defines obligations in the sphere of economic and social policies, particularly in the area of employment, wages, other income, and social security.

(2) The parties to the agreement shall in the framework of their operation participate in the formulation and implementation of the economic and social policies and, in doing so, their approach shall be mutually consulted in the Council of Economic and Social Accord. Particular attention shall be paid to the economic, social, and regional problems that could become a source of social tension.

(3) The parties to the agreement consider the implementation of the next steps of the economic and social reform while maintaining social peace, the stabilization of the Czech economy, and the creation of conditions for its long-term development to be their main objectives. Favorable conditions for business and the development of the economy are the subject of the program for the cooperation between the government and entrepreneur associations.

Article 2

(1) The employers and trade unions shall include the obligations arising from the General Agreement in their collective agreements. In the instances when state bodies act as employers, the government shall assume the responsibility for these obligations.

(2) The trade unions and employers shall negotiate higher-level collective agreements and a support for collective negotiation in the enterprises (entrepreneurial entities as defined in the Commercial Code) with the objective of creating with the higher-level collective agreements conditions for the realization of the economic and social intentions in the enterprises and for the enterprise collective agreements.

(3) The parties to the agreement shall—in the conditions defined by law—support an extension of the application of the higher-level collective agreements. Thereby, the trade unions shall not demand an extension of the collective rights and obligations of the organizations to which the agreement applies.

Article 3

The General Agreement does not provide a basis for individual employee claims.

Article 4

(1) The government shall endeavor to maintain the continuity of the rule of law following the partition of the federation and to procure legislative measures in the areas that used to be in the domain of the federation and passed onto the republic, particularly in the sphere of employment, income, taxes, and social policies.

(2) The parties to the agreement shall honor the International Labor Organization treaties ratified by the Czech and Slovak Federal Republics.

(3) The government shall submit to the legislative body all new draft laws and regulations, or changes in the sphere of employment, income, taxes, and social policies, after they have been discussed with the social partners. If an agreement is not reached, the government shall submit to the legislative body, together with the bill, the recommendation by the social partners.

Article 5

The employers shall not prevent the implementation of trade union rights, particularly that of freedom of association, and collective bargaining, and operation according to Article 136 of the Labor Code.

Article 6

(1) The parties to the agreement shall promote mutual information and consultations between the Council of the Economic and Social Accord of the Czech Republic and the Council of the Economic and Social Accord of the Slovak Republic, particularly in the areas that significantly affect the economic and social situation in one of the republics, sectors, or regions.

(2) The parties to the agreement shall inform one another regarding the social and economic development to the extent agreed upon in the Council of the Economic and Social Accord.

Article 7

The employers and trade unions shall define the principles on the basis of which higher-level trade unions may enter the organizations.

Part 2

Active Employment Policy

Article 8

(1) In the framework of its economic policy, the government shall implement an active employment policy and,

in particular, it shall support the design and implementation of retraining programs, job creation, the implementation of work beneficial to the public, and business development programs.

At least 25 percent of the funds designated for employment shall be used for this purpose. The utilization of these funds shall be made to conform to the situation on the labor market in the individual regions and to the efficiency of the individual projects. If needed, upon agreement of the parties to the agreement in the Council of the Economic and Social Accord, the specified percentage can be adjusted.

(2) The employers and trade unions shall participate in the preparation and implementation of the retraining programs and, if needed, in the establishment of retraining centers.

Article 9

The government shall pay constant attention to measures aimed at increasing the employment of school graduates, youth who quit school and do not continue with their professional training, and handicapped citizens.

Article 10

(1) The trade unions and employers shall cooperate with labor offices in the framework of membership in consultation bodies in the design and implementation of regional employment programs and in utilizing the state support of business operations.

(2) In dealing with the situation in the regions, in which unemployment reaches a level threatening social peace, the government shall endeavor to arrange in cooperation with the social partners that the necessary measures be immediately adopted.

(3) The trade unions and employers shall as a rule determine in their collective agreements for 1993 a specific approach to laying off employees for reasons of organization.

Part 3

Wages Policy

Article 11

The parties to the treaty shall discuss regularly, each quarter, the development of wages in correlation with the development of consumer prices, assess the effect of the liberalization of wages with respect to the risk of inflation, to the competitiveness of the enterprises, and the situation on the labor market. The talks shall be based on overall wages without any classification.

Article 12

(1) The parties to the treaty shall endeavor to keep to the suggested growth of wages that is based on the pace of the economic growth, rate of inflation, and maintenance of the level of real wages. In the entrepreneurial sector, the social partners shall build in collective negotiations on the principle of dependence of wages on the work done and the economic efficiency of the enterprise.

(2) From the macroeconomic point of view, the parties to the treaty shall consider the actual growth of nominal wages in the entrepreneurial sector in comparison with the same period of the previous year. If the actual growth in the past quarter differs by more than five percentage points from the consumer price increase over the same period, the government shall propose measures affecting the development of nominal wages in the entrepreneurial sector. The draft measures for the subsequent period will be discussed in advance in the Council of Economic and Social Accord.

Article 13

In the first half of 1993, the government shall

a) adjust the legal regulation that defines minimum wage scales and other minimum wage claims of employees in the entrepreneurial sector—whose salary conditions are not arranged by a collective agreement—according to the development in consumer prices; this adjustment shall not affect the level of minimum wages,

b) adjust the legal regulations on salaries of employees of the budget-funded organizations and some other organizations and bodies including their conceivable adaptation to the development in wages in the entrepreneurial sector so that the rate of growth of the overall salaries in the aforementioned organizations and bodies is not slower,

c) draft legal regulations on earnings of the members of the armed forces and other units transferred to the domain of the Czech Republic with the objective of removing unjustified differences in the legislation in effect,

d) draft principles of the law on government service.

Article 14

The parties to the treaty shall support further development of the information system regarding the price of labor that provides, in an anonymous manner, data on the level and differentiation of employee wages with a selected sample of employers according to the levels and professions, possibly sectors (specialization) and regions, and its expansion by information on agreed upon working conditions.

Part 4

Social Policy

Article 15

The government shall guarantee a purpose-oriented utilization of the funds obtained from both the employers and the employees as social insurance premiums and the

contribution to the government employment policy that are kept in special subaccounts with a priority for the appropriate needs, and it shall inform the social partners quarterly on the use of these funds, including proposals on the annual settlement.

Article 16

The government shall draft a bill on supplementary pension systems, which it shall submit to the legislative body in the first half of 1993.

Article 17

In the first half of 1993, the parties to the treaty shall assess the bill on accidental injury insurance. The government shall draft the bill on accidental injury insurance and submit it for reading in the legislative body so it can take effect on 1 January 1994 at the latest. This law shall be based on the principles of the employers' compulsory general liability insurance against work-related injuries to health that shall be provided by accidental injury insurance companies established for that purpose.

Article 18

The government and trade unions shall establish a parity group to draft proposals for budget-funded and subsidized organizations, adopt points of view on the proposals and measures concerning this sphere on behalf of the Council For Economic and Social Accord, and draft recommendations for the enterprise collective agreements in the budget-funded and subsidized sphere.

Article 19

The employers and trade unions in all organizations other than state enterprises shall support the creation of a social fund for employees if the employees request such a fund. The guidelines for creating, utilizing, and managing the fund shall be agreed upon in collective agreements or other agreements concluded between the employer and the trade union organization. The partners shall lend support to starting the fund from the Cultural and Social Services Fund [FKSP] balance and shall ensure that the installments on the loans granted from the FKSP form part of the income of the fund created. The employers shall make independent decisions regarding the fund if no trade unions operate within the organization.

Article 20

(1) The contracting parties shall create the conditions for and—in the event they are fulfilled—shall push for the adoption of the following International Labor Organization conventions:

—No. 81/1947 and No. 129/1969 on labor inspection;
—No. 117/1962 on the fundamental aims and level of social policy;
—No. 135/1971 on employees' representatives;
—No. 144/1976 on tripartite consultative meetings on international labor norms;
—No. 151/1978 on labor relations in public service;
—No. 154/1981 on support for collective bargaining.

(2) The contracting parties shall establish a tripartite working group of Council For Economic and Social Accord experts to look into the possibilities for the Czech Republic's accession to the individual articles of the European Social Charter and shall make the appropriate recommendations in this regard during the General Agreement's validity.

Part V.

Concluding Stipulations

Article 21

(1) The implementation of the obligations contained in the General Agreement shall be reviewed every six months in the Council For Economic and Social Accord.

(2) Any contracting party that does not comply with the obligations contained in the General Agreement must inform the other contracting parties why it is not complying with them. The other contracting parties are—at the same time—authorized to state publicly their point of view on the reason given.

Article 22

(1) Any of the contracting parties may propose negotiations on a change or supplement to the General Agreement, as the case may be on measures guaranteeing its fulfillment. The other contracting parties are obliged to discuss the proposal. The negotiations must be concluded no later than 30 days from the date the proposal is submitted.

(2) Before any changes or supplements are included in the General Agreement, the contracting parties are bound by its current wording.

(3) An eventual supplement or change to the General Agreement does not infringe the validity of the collective agreements concluded on the basis of this General Agreement.

Article 23

This General Agreement becomes valid the day it is signed.

Prague, 11 March 1993.

Economics Minister Announces Resignation

LD1803102693 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1000 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Slovak Economics Minister Ludovit Cernak has told Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar that he is resigning. Speaking at a news conference of the Slovak National Party today, he said he will hand his written resignation to President Michal Kovac tomorrow in the presence of the prime minister.

Cernak Denies Saying Government Heading for Breakup

LD1703205793 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1730 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Dear listeners, a few minutes ago we broadcast a report by the Austrian News Agency, APA, to the effect that Minister Ludovit Cernak had said in an interview with this agency that, I quote, the government of Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar is heading for a breakup. Minister Cernak, who at this moment is on the telephone line, wants to react to this statement. Go ahead, minister.

[Cernak] Thank you very much. I strongly want to deny this part of my alleged statement since in a short while our [Slovak National Party] presidium will meet. If it decides that we are leaving the government we do not want to destabilize the Slovak political scene. On the contrary, we want to stabilize the parliament so that it can carry out its duty of controling the government. Even if I resign we will support Meciar's government provided it cooperates with the parliament. A government crisis is not our goal at all.

[Studio announcer] Does this mean that you did not say the sentence I quoted?

[Cernak] No, I did not.

[Studio annoucer] Which means that APA should deny it. Thank you very much, minister. Goodbye.

Cernak Denies Offer To Sell Tanks to Libya, Iraq

AU1703143693 Prague CTK in English 2200 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Bratislava March 15 (CTK)— Slovak Economics Minister Ludovit Cernak rejected today the report published in today's edition of the British DAILY TELEGRAPH that Slovakia had offered Libya and Iraq to sell them its T-72 tanks produced at the ZTS heavy machinery works in Martin, West Slovakia.

Cernak told CTK that the last tanks were sold by the former Czechoslovakia in 1989.

Viliam Dubovicky, ZTS director, confirmed to CTK that no sale contracts with these countries have been concluded. He said that the author of the article in THE DAILY TELEGRAPH had visited the works several days ago. The only thing we told him was that we were concluding our contract with Syria and continuing other business activities. The rest is pure invention, Dubovicky said.

National Party Protests Andrejcak Appointment

LD1703213093 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1400 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] The deputies club of the Slovak National Party [SNS] in the National Council considers it unsuitable for the future of Slovakia that a person should become defense minister of Slovakia who while holding a senior military position prepared to intervene against democratic forces for the defense of the communist regime. The view was expressed that the appointment of Imrich Andrejcak as minister is regarded an act of political intolerance by the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] and a signal that the Movement is not seeking a path of compromise but one of political confrontation.

In the situation in which senior state posts are being filled by former members of the nomenclature, the SNS cannot share in responsibility for the further development of internal arrangements in the country, the statement of the SNS deputies club concludes.

Meciar Says Czech Halting of Share Transfer Illegal

LD1803121993 Prague CTK in English 1137 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Bratislava March 18 (CTK)—Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar today called the Czech Government's decision to halt the transfer of Czech company shares to Slovak investors a violation of international law and agreements signed between Prague and Bratislava.

Slovak investors obtained the shares in Czech companies during last year's first wave of coupon privatisation, before the Czech and Slovak Republics split into independent countries.

Were we to go along with this decision and react to it, it would mean the start of a trade war between Czechs and Slovaks, Meciar told legislators of the republic's parliament.

It is an unacceptable act of pressure...and discrimination against the property of Slovak citizens in the Czech Republic, he added. The Slovak premier said drafts of a law on the division of state property were inappropriate, discriminatory and inconsiderate, and could not be signed by Slovakia.

The Czech Government, according to Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus, is prepared to immediately sign a global property agreement on bank credits and debts.

We are very sorry about all this but we are not a province of the Czech Republic, we are a sovereign state. No one is going to treat us like a province again and no one is going to give us ultimatums, Meciar emphasised.

Russia To Supply Spares for Soviet-Made Weaponry

AU1703202293 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 10 Mar 93 p 2

[Unattributed report in the "News" column: "Military Visitor from Russia"]

[Text] Major General Engineer J. Humaj, commander of the Army of the Slovak Republic, yesterday received Major General Y. Khrisamov, military and air attache at the Embassy of the Russian Federation. They agreed, among other issues, on securing supplies of spare parts for aircraft, tracked and wheeled vehicles, and other technology from the former USSR with which the Army of the Slovak Republic is equipped.

EC's Brittan Supports Higher Slovak Steel Imports

AU1703152193 Prague CTK in English 2011 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Bratislava March 15 (CTK)— Leon Brittan, member of the European Community (EC) Commission in charge of external economic relations, will ask the premiers of the EC member states to raise the limits on steel import from Slovakia.

Speaking at a press conference following his meeting with Slovak representatives today, Brittan said that Slovak steel was not considered 'dumping' because it was subsidized by the state. He emphasized that conversion of the Slovak arms industry into civilian production is a complex problem, and that arms production creates many jobs.

The association agreement between the EC and both the Czech and Slovak Republics can be signed as early as this year, but an agreement different from that between the EC and the former Czechoslovak Federation must be worked out, Brittan said. The EC Commission stated that all new agreements must include a clause concerning human rights, he stressed.

The EC aid will be directed towards preserving the current customs union between the Czech and Slovak Republics.

UK To Support Efforts To Join EC

AU1703152093 Prague CTK in English 1948 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Bratislava March 15 (CTK)— Great Britain will support Slovakia's joining European structures as well as its efforts aimed at entering the European Community (EC), Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign affairs, said here today at a meeting with Slovak parliament chairman Ivan Gasparovic.

Hogg, who arrived here today on a two-day visit, discussed with Gasparovic problems connected with the controversial Gabcikovo-Nagymaros hydroelectric project on the Danube, position of ethnic minorities in Slovakia as well as Slovak Republic's relationship towards Great Britain and the Czech Republic.

Also today Hogg met with state secretary in the Slovak Foreign Ministry Jan Lisuch, to discuss the current conversion of the Slovak armaments industry into civilian production and arms trade.

Hogg will pay a visit to the Czech Republic on March 16-17.

Cabinet Takes Up U.S. 'Protest Note'

AU1703145993 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 12 Mar 93 p 2

[TA SR report: "Protest Note"]

[Text] Bratislava— At its meeting on 9 March the Slovak Government dealt, among other issues, with a U.S. Embassy protest note regarding an incident that took place in Bratislava on 31 January 1992. The incident, which involved two U.S. nationals and a patrol of the Interior Ministry Police Corps in Bratislava, occurred at Viedenska Cesta [Vienna Road] at 1930, while the policemen were conducting a check on the observance of road traffic rules. The motive leading to the incident and the degree of individual participants' guilt are being investigated by prosecuting bodies. They will inform the public about the results of their investigation.

Government Expects Unemployment To Rise

LD1703215093 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1700 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Unemployment is set to increase in our country, although more moderately than before. Today a representative of the government submitted the so-called employment policy concept to the Labor Market Committee of the Interest Coordination Council. Eva Soos reports.

[Soos] This year, the number of unemployed is expected to rise by 200,000-250,000. That is to say, by the end of this year there will be 950,000 unemployed in Hungary. This estimate is included in the proposal on the government's employment policy strategy. Regional crisis handling, support for competitive companies, development of the infrastructure, and the defense of existing jobs—these are the most important basic principles of the employment policy concept. There is a need to amend some legislation, the proposal says, and some changes can be expected in the system of provisions for unemployed as well, for example the introduction of workfare and labor-market training of career starters.

Conservative Smallholders Establish Party

AU1803090393 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 16 Mar 93 p 5

["S.N."-signed report: "The Conservative Smallholders' Party Established—They Would Like To Support the 36-Faction"]

[Text] Even though Bela Nemeth, the newly elected chairman of the newly established Conservative Smallholders' and Citizens Party, asked the journalists not to report about the establishment of their party as just another new smallholders' party, this is what essentially took place in the Duna Palace on 13 March.

At the news conference following the founding session, Bela Nemeth, the deputy head of the 36-faction, told us that the main goal of the new party was to keep the 36-faction together. They claim that they have just created the first party or rather the second party after Jozsef Torgyan's Independent Smallholders' Party [FKgP], and not the fifth or sixth smallholders' party. They carried out a decision made at the headquarters of the Hungarian Optical Works on 21 November 1992. The temporary center headed by Bela Nemeth failed to obtain the registration right of the FKgP and, therefore, the smallholders' dismissed by Jozsef Torgyan had to create a new organization. Mainly because of financial reasons, they did not have the means to hold a founding meeting with the mobilization of 700-800 people; as a result, only 249 smallholders, mostly from the provinces, asked to be members of the new party.

Bela Nemeth and his followers want to create a serious and intelligent party that will be able to achieve considerable results at the next elections, although they are aware of the fact that their possibilities have become very restricted. They would like to disperse the "smallholders image" that mainly emerged in the wake of the FKgP's activity. Their program aims at the intelligentsia in the provinces and they want to be partners with both the agricultural intelligentsia and entrepreneurs. They want to include the European Christian ideas as universal values into the party program and they continue to represent the owners.

Bela Nemeth stressed that the Conservative Smallholders' and Citizens Party wished to support the 36-faction; they welcomed five persons from this faction in their party's leadership. They would also like to see the 36-faction stay in the coalition until the elections.

Jeszenszky Views Hungarian-Romanian Basic Treaty

AU1803103793 Budapest MTI in English 1102 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Budapest, 17 Mar (MTI)—"The agreement we wish to conclude with Romania involves the interests of ethnic Hungarians there. So, we welcome Romania's indication of readiness to discuss the treaty with the Hungarian Democratic Federation of Romania. We have consulted the Romanian minority here," Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky said to the daily "MAGYAR HIRLAP", in reply to a question about the meeting of the two country's foreign ministers scheduled for Saturday in Gyula, Hungary.

Jeszenszky also told the newspaper that in a letter last week, Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar had not proposed a date or place for a Hungarian-Slovak prime ministerial meeting urged by the Slovakian press.

Serb Allegations of Volunteer Training Denied

AU1703131393 Budapest MTI in English 1738 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Budapest, 15 Mar (MTI)—Hungary's Defence Ministry Press Office on Monday [15 Mar] denied Bosnian Serb allegations that Hungary is training foreign volunteers to intervene in the South Slav conflict.

Speaking to MTI on Monday, Defence Ministry Press Office Head Laszlo Tikos said the charges in a communique issued by the Bosnian Serb military headquarters Sunday were totally unfounded.

Official Calls for Serb Policy Change on Minority

AU1703125393 Budapest MTI in English 1955 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Belgrade, 15 March (MTI)—Hungary is not trying to isolate Yugoslavia but a precondition for better bilateral ties is for threats against Hungary to cease and for Belgrade to introduce fundamental changes in its policy on ethnic Hungarians in Serbia's Vojvodina region, Hungary's chief negotiator said after talks with a Yugoslav politician on Monday [15 March].

Hungarian Foreign Affairs State Secretary Janos Martonyi had two-hour talks with Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic.

Martonyi said Hungary has a vested interest in developing ties with Serbia and seeks to build balanced ties with all successor states of the former Yugoslavia.

A fundamental change is needed in Serbia's policy on ethnic Hungarians in the Vojvodina region, because ethnic Hungarians feel threatened. Forced conscription must stop and conditions must be created for ethnic Hungarian press and schooling to operate effectively in Vojvodina, Martonyi said.

Vojvodina Hungarians feel the way to preserve their identity is Yugoslav authorities accepting their local autonomy. Hungary agrees, Martonyi said, but only if discussed by the democratic community of Vojvodina Hungarians and Yugoslav authorities.

Government Issues Statement on Russian Democracy

AU1803101093 Budapest MTI in English 1924 GMT 16 Mar 93

["Government Statement"; date not given: "Hungary Interested in the Survival of a Democratic Russia"]

[Text] Budapest, 16 Mar (MTI)—"Hungary's government fundamentally wants to strengthen security and stability in Europe, and within this, in our region. This makes it particularly sensitive towards both Eastern European and Balkan problems.

"At the same time, it looks upon all developments that threaten security and stability with anxiety. It has therefore expressed, on several occasions, its concern over the tensions and crisis spots that have come about in the region.

"The Hungarian Government considers the results achieved by Russia and the other successor states of the former Soviet Union in the creation of democratic societies to be of historic importance from the point of view of Europe and the entire region.

"The withdrawal of former Soviet and Russian troops from several countries of the Central European region, and the guaranteeing of this for the future, has made it possible to place relations on new bases, and has promoted the democratic development of these countries.

"Hungary is interested in the survival of a democratic Russia, and the continuation of reforms. Strengthening international security is closely tied to the person of President Boris Yeltsin, who has made major steps not only in the interest of the region's security, but Russian reform policy as well. Hungary has come to know a firm, and hard negotiating partner in him, who understands the Hungarian people as well.

"The Hungarian Government welcomes the ideas which the world's leading powers put forth to support European security, and to uphold and assist Russian democratic development.

"Hungary considers Russia not only as an outstanding great power, but also as its major economic and political partner."

Foreign Affairs Spokesman Appointed Deputy State Secretary

AU1803095493 Budapest MTI in English 1346 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Budapest, 16 Mar (MTI)—Foreign Affairs Spokesman Janos Herman was appointed deputy state secretary at the Foreign Ministry, by Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky. The promotion was effective as of March 15, the ministry's press office reported.

Piatkowski Takes Oath as Justice Minister

LD1703133693 Warsaw PAP in English 1318 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Warsaw, March 17—Jan Piatkowski was sworn in as Poland's new justice minister on Wednesday [17 March], at a ceremony at the Belweder official presidential residence in the presence of President Lech Walesa and Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka.

After the ceremony, President Walesa told the new minister that he had assumed a difficult and heavy task. Piatkowski replied that he would continue to implement his slogan from the October 1991 election campaign: "Everything for the good of the fatherland."

Piatkowski, a member of the Christian National Union (ZCHN), replaces Zbigniew Dyka (also ZCHN), who was forced to resign on March 11 following widespread criticism of his performance as justice minister.

State Budget Records 11 Percent Deficit

LD1703201493 Warsaw PAP in English 1713 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Warsaw, March 17—State budget revenues in January and February totalled 51.5 trillion zlotys (over 3 billion dollars) and were lower than expenditures (60.6 trillion zlotys). The around 9 trillion zlotys deficit makes 11.1 per cent of that envisaged for 1993 in the budget law, according to the Central Office of Planning (CUP).

Industrial production rose by 5.7 per cent in January and February while labour productivity went up by 10.1 per cent as compared to the same period last year.

According to CUP prices will rise by some 9.5 per cent in first four months of 1993 which is less than envisaged in the assumption of the monetary policy (10.4 per cent).

Net wages incresed in February by 7.3 per cent while retail prices went up 3.4 per cent.

Unemployment Increases in Most Districts

LD1703214493 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1830 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] There are 2,626,000 unemployed in Poland. In February, unemployment rose by 132,000; 44,000 less than in January. The highest level of unemployment is in the Koszalin, Olsztyn, and Suwalki Voivodships.

Despite the economic reawakening that has been evident for almost a year, the number of unemployed has continued to increase. In February, it exceeded 2.6 million. An increase in the number of unemployed was noted in 46 voivodships, with the greatest increase being recorded in Szczecin Voivodship—5 percent, and also in the Warsaw, Zielona Gora, Wroclaw, and Chelm Voivodships—by over 4 percent. On the other hand, unemployment fell in three voivodships: Gdansk, Gorzow, and Rzeszow. The largest number of people without work, over 22 percent of the economically active population, are registered in the voivodships of northern Poland. The Warsaw, Poznan, Bielsko-Biala, Katowice, and Krakow Voivodships have the least difficulties with unemployment. In these regions, unemployment does not exceed 10 percent. Over half of all the unemployed continue to be women—as many as 51 percent of the 1,376,000 unemployed women did not have the right to benefits in February.

From a report prepared in the Ministry of Labor it transpires that it is the inhabitants of typically agricultural regions who have the greatest difficulties with finding work.

Finance Minister Hopes for Continued U.S. Assistance

LD1703234893 Warsaw PAP in English 2212 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Washington, March 17—Poland hopes that the United States will continue to play a leading role in mobilizing Western support for Polish economic reforms just as it did under the previous administration. "There are reasons to establish good working contacts with the new U.S. Administration that would be comparable to those prevailing under its predecessor," Polish Finance Minister Jerzy Osiatynski told a meeting of American journalists hours before his scheduled meeting with the Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen.

Asked what particular issues he would raise during his current U.S. official visit, Osiatynski singled out further negotitaions with the Paris Club of Poland's creditors aimed at a further reduction of her official foreign debt, and the negotiations with the London Club of private commercial banks that had lent money to Poland.

According to the finance minister, the chances for a further 20 percent reduction in the official debt were "very good", while the talks with the London Club "will be difficult" but should bring a satisfactory solution.

Osiatynski is the first member of the Polish Government to come on an official visit to the United States after Bill Clinton replaced George Bush as president.

Apart from Bentsen, the Polish minister will have meetings with members of the presidential National Economic Council and National Security Council as well as congress committee leaders.

Ministry Expects Privatization To Accelerate

LD1703185693 Warsaw PAP in English 1637 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Warsaw March 17—The Privatisation Ministry expects that the process of transforming state enterprises into state treasury owned stock companies will accelerate this and next year, Katarzyna Grabiec from the ministry

reported on Wednesday [17 March]. The transformation allows a company to be fully privatised in the course of a year or two.

So far 551 applications were accepted and 150 rejected mainly because of the erroneous financial analysis. According to the law on privatisation only enterprises without serious financial problems may be transformed into companies.

But this is not a rule, Grabiec explained, if a company has a good business plan it can count on a positive opinion. Ms. Grabiec gave an example of the "Polska Welna" clothing company from Zielona Gora, which half a year after the privatization managed to pay off its debt to the budget and continues to make profit.

Unions Join To Fight Privatization

LD1803040993 Warsaw PAP in English 0059 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Legnica, March 17—Representatives of the All-Poland Trade Union Alliance (OPZZ), the Federation of Miners' Unions, the Self-Defence (Samoobrona) Farmers' Union and the Union of Copper Industry Employees opposed privatization of state enterprises and set up the Nationwide Movement To Defend National Property during a meeting at the Sieroszowice mining plant Wednesday [17 March].

The debaters, including OPZZ leader Waclaw Martyniuk, chief of the Miners' Federation Rajmund Moric, and Samoobrona Boss Andrzej Lepper, described privatization as a programme intended to take away national property from society, Chairman of the Union of Copper Industry Employees Ryszard Zbrzy .ny said.

They also issued a statement to express firm opposition to the existing socioeconomic policy serving only the interests of narrow elites linked to foreign capital, leading Poland to ruin and society to poverty.

Suchocka To Make 'Corrections' to Agriculture Policy

AU1503140093 Warsaw PAP in English 2249 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Warsaw, March 12—The government has decided to make essential corrections to its agricultural policy for laying the foundations for modern agriculture remains one of its main goals, Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka told a meeting of the National Political Council of the Peasant-Christian Party (SLCH) that started in Warsaw today.

The prime minister said the real progress in the polish economy is linked with the overall development of the Polish economy. She added that the building of a social infrastructure in rural areas is necessary to improve the living conditions of farmers.

"It remains our intention to support any activity which aims at a decrease in costs and an increase in agricultural profitability. It is our belief that the work of farmers cannot be worse treated than that performed by the industrial workers or employees of other sectors of the national economy," she added.

Asked whether the government has developed a concept on how to solve issues related to unemployment, reprivatization, privatization and economy restructuring, the prime minister replied that Poland would belong to exceptional countries if she had ready solutions to all of her problems.

"These problems are not insoluble although cushioning them is not easy," she said.

Commenting on the planned protest actions of farmers unions, Hanna Suchocka told the meeting that a strike is a normal thing in a democratic state, but if it becomes a daily routine it leads to the distortion of the idea of strike and poses danger to the state.

Asked about the possibility of broadening the present coalition, Hanna Suchocka said it depended on other parties and not only on her.

Mazowiecki Calls for 'Stabilization'

AU1703131793 Warsaw PAP in English 1958 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Tarnow, March 14—Leader of the Democratic Union (UD) Tadeusz Mazowiecki told a regional congress of the party in Tarnow today that the UD's national congress should be dominated by two main tasks: "stabilization and the country's development."

He added that the UD "has to counter attempts at the destabilization of the President's Office and the government." Among the party's key tasks he named the development of the economy, curbing of unemployment, improvement of living conditions and privatization.

According to Mazowiecki, the UD "should heal the degenerated political life and overcome the party crisis." Society should be inspired to participate actively in the building of structures of an independent and democratic state. It is his belief that the UD has special predispositions to this task, being "on one part a political party striving for sharing the power and on the other a citizens association."

He stressed the role of the Union in implementing the second stage of the local government reform at county (powiat) level. "This is currently one of the party's main tasks as the Democratic Union perceives the state as a common weal of all citizens. The interest of the state and the interest of the nation is of primary importance for the Union," Mazowiecki said, adding that not only the intelligentsia and urban entrepreneurs but also rural inhabitants should rally behind the party to implement those tasks.

The regional congress appealed to the party's national congress to adopt a resolution transforming the Democratic Union into a "party of towns and localities building civil society."

Milczanowski, Czech Ministers Discuss Asylum Law

AU1803100693 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 15 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Adam Gierak: "Warsaw and Prague Fear Refugees"]

[Text] The effects of introducing the new German asylum law were discussed by Czech Interior Minister Jan Ruml and Polish Interior Minister Andrzej Milczanowski in Kudowa Zdroj, Walbrzych Voivodship, on Saturday [13 March].

"The problem of emigration cannot be the concern of just one country resolved to the disadvantage of other countries," said Jan Ruml. In his opinion, emigrants are a problem for all of Europe and a solution must be sought "on a European level."

Minister Milczanowski denied Czech press reports whereby the purpose of the Kudowa talks was to create a united Polish-Czech front against Germany.

"We had no such intention," Milczanowski explained. "However, it is natural that we discussed the effects of the change to the asylum law in Germany because that concerns both the Czech Republic and Poland. It has nothing to do with drawing up any kind of tactics."

The ministers also discussed the future of the agreement on cooperation in the sphere of security signed by the Czechoslovak and Polish Interior Ministries in 1991. This concerns cooperation between the police forces of both countries in fighting organized crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, arms dealing, and car thefts. The two ministers concurred that the agreement is a sound one but needs "some life put into it," as Minister Rumli said.

The Czech interior minister said he was considering introducing visas for citizens of those countries from where the greatest number of refugees come.

However, Minister Milczanowski said that Poland wants to introduce "registered invitations" from citizens of Bulgaria, Romania, Asian countries (Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Thailand), and the republics of the former USSR (except Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia).

Remaining Russian Soldiers Leave Brzeg

LD1703173693 Warsaw PAP in English 1546 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Opole, March 17—Polish Government's plenipotentiary for the allocation of Russian troops General Zdzislaw Ostrowski and Russian Federation representative for Russian troops in Poland Colonel Boris Potapov on Wednesday [17 March] signed in Brzeg, Opole Province, a final document stating that the last squad of the Soviet Army has left the town.

The Russian soldiers left Poland on Wednesday morning.

Walesa Supports Yeltsin in Dispute With Parliament

LD1803113493 Warsaw PAP in English 1112 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Warsaw, March 18—President Lech Walesa on Wednesday [17 March] expressed his support for Russian President Boris Yeltsin in his current dispute with the Russian Parliament.

Speaking in Warsaw at the opening of an international symposium on radio and TV broadcasting in the countries of central and eastern Europe, President Walesa said that "passengers should never try to take the wheel from the driver while the car is moving, and parliaments do that too often."

NATO Delegation Meets Parliament Commissions

AU1703150193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1218 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 17/3/1993—The delegation of the subcommission on cooperation in defence and security between Europe and North America of the North Atlantic Assembly, now on a fact-finding visit in Romania, met on March 17 with the foreign policy commissions of Romania's Parliament, headed by the two commissions' chairmen—Florian Dudita and Nicolae Valeanu Ivanciu.

They discussed global and regional issues, primarily questions pertaining to the embargo on Yugoslavia, both as regarded its enforcement and its consequences on the Romanian economy. The Romanian party stressed the necessity that the NATO should get involved in the efforts to avert breaches of the embargo on the Danube but also on the need that Romania should be granted compensations for the losses it has incurred by enforcing the embargo.

The North Atlantic delegation, headed by Jose Lello (Portugal), which further includes deputies of various orientations of the NATO countries, will visit the next days the Iron Gates zone and will conduct talks with President Ion Iliescu, Premier Nicolae Vacaroiu, the parliament president and speaker as well as with the defence and finance ministers.

Received by Defense Minister

AU1703200293 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1905 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/3/1993—The delegation of the North Atlantic Assembly Sub Commission for Defense and Security Cooperation, headed by Jose Lello, which is currently visiting Romania, was received Wednesday, March 17, by the Romanian Defense Minister, Lieutenant-General Niculae Spiroiu.

Minister Spiroiu gave the guests ample information on the process of restructuring and modernization of the Romanian Army and on its current preoccupations to keep the country stable.

Meets State Secretary Ene

AU1703200693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1701 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 17/3/1993—Talks were held Wednesday, March 17, at the Romanian Foreign Ministry headquarters in Bucharest, between the members of the delegation of the Subcommission for Defense and Security Cooperation of the North Atlantic Assembly and Romanian Secretary of State Constantin Ene.

Mainly discussed were topical matters related to security and peace-keeping in the area, implementation of the sanctions against rump Yugoslavia, and the financial consequences thereof for Romania. Constantin Ene reasserted Romania's determination to continue strict enforcement of the embargo and reference was made to dialogue and cooperation in that field with the UN, NATO, WEU, and EEC.

Also tackled were aspects of the situation in the eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova.

Constantin Ene reasserted Romania's firm option for a rapprochement and sustained integration in the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

The delegation of the North Atlantic Assembly is headed by the chairman of the Subcommission for Defense and Security Cooperation, Jose Lello [name as received], and is comprised of political personalities—senators and deputies from Belgium, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, Norway, and Spain.

Visits Danube Iron Gates

AU1803105893 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0900 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] The North Atlantic delegation led by the president of the Subcommission for Defense and Security Cooperation of the North Atlantic Assembly, Mr. Jose Lello [as heard] from Portugal, arrived at the Danube Iron Gates approximately one hour ago. The delegation is made up of political figures, senators, and deputies from Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, and Spain.

As our correspondent, Cornel Sorescu, reported, the delegation is accompanied by Deputy Ion Ratiu on behalf of the Standing Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies, and by Deputy Nicolae (Serdin) on behalf of the Commission for National Defense and Security.

On arriving, the guests were welcomed by Professor Constantin Sirbulescu, prefect of Mehedinti county; lawyer Sever Dumitrascu, sub-prefect; Dumitru Mares, president of the County Council; customs officials, and representatives of the border police and of the Iron Gates II hydropower station.

At the Danube traffic monitoring center at the Iron Gates II customs point, Mr. Ion Preda, customs chief, gave explanations in connection with the activity and cooperation with the experts of the international mission regarding Danube traffic in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions on the embargo imposed on Yugoslavia.

The program also includes a visit to the sluice installations, the precincts of the hydropower station, and a call at the Mehedinti County Prefect's Office in the city of Drobeta Turnu Severin.

Will Inspect Air Force Unit

AU1703132793 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0958 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 17/3/1993—A mixed commission of military experts checking the Treaty on Nuclear Arms Reduction in Europe started activity in Romania on March 16. Romanian Defence Minister Lieutenant-General Niculae Spiroiu said that the commission included for the first time now, along with NATO inspectors, also three representatives of Eastern countries—Hungary, Poland and Azerbaijan. The commission will inspect an air force unit in Transylvania. Romania, where 50 sites have already been inspected since the effective date of the treaty, was also invited to participate in such NATO commissions, Minister Spiroiu added.

Melescanu Talks With Hurd 'Extremely Positive'

AU1703131693 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu by Ruxandra Feraru in London—live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In connection with the program of the visit paid by Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu to London, it has been announced that a meeting will be held at 1200 [1000 GMT] between the chief of Romanian diplomacy and his British counterpart, Mr. Douglas Hurd.

Our reporter, Ruxandra Feraru, is now trying to contact Mr. Melescanu on the telephone. [passage omitted]

[Feraru] We now have established a direct link to Romania's foreign minister, Mr. Teodor Melescanu. [passage omitted] I understand that a few minutes ago you left Downing Street 10 where you met with the British chief of diplomacy. What is your opinion about this meeting?

[Melescanu] This discussion was a continuation—as it were—of the contacts I have had with Mr. Douglas Hurd on other occasions. However, this time it was a discussion that focused on our bilateral problems and on certain international issues of common interest. Certainly, the situation in Yugoslavia and the events, the developments in Moscow, in the Russian Federation, prevailed.

As a first impression, I want to emphasize the extremely positive and constructive way—I should say—in which the foreign secretary of England approached all the subjects I raised and there was quite a number of these subjects, because they proceeded from the need to speed up and improve the level of our political dialogue, something that is fully endorsed by our interlocutor. In actual fact, he promised to pay an official visit to Romania very soon, in approximately one or a couple of months, and he also promised his support in achieving high-level political contacts at the first opportunity.

Our discussion then continued with issues linked to developing Britain's support for Romania in the economic area, support that should incorporate—as I have pointed out—encouraging signals for British investors and even signs of solidarity with the losses caused to Romania because of the application of the FRY embargo.

Thus, in conclusion I want to tell you that there was an extremely positive and encouraging response in connection with all these subjects, I should say. [passage omitted]

Discusses Economic Issues With EBRD

AU1703200493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1923 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] London (ROMPRES) 17/3/1993—Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu had an interview Wednesday, March 17 in London with the first deputy-chairman of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD]. The sides discussed the economic options of the Romanian Government's strategy.

In an interview, Minister Melescanu said they had discussed the way EBRD can grant support for the carrying out of the main targets of the Romanian Government's strategy. He also said the first deputy-chairman had assured him the EBRD would back viable projects.

Also tackled was the matter of integration of the former communist states in the East-West commercial flow, and the first deputy-chairman opined that concurrently with those efforts the former communist East European states should consider revitalization of the economic links among them, Minister Melescanu reported.

About his meeting with the chairman of the Commission for Foreign Policy of the British Parliament, Teodor Melescanu informed he had expressed his hope that the British legislative forum would back Romania in its bid for full membership in the Council of Europe.

Request to Join Council of Europe Reiterated

AU1803104093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0929 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 18/3/1993—A delegation of rapporteurs for the Council of Europe paid a visit to Bucharest over 8-11 March 1993, aiming to set up the standard procedures for the studying and adoption of a decision regarding Romania's request to enter the Council. The agenda of the visit included meetings with representatives of the government, of political parties, of the minorities, of the media, as well as with other decisionmakers in Romania.

Related to the discussions held with the rapporteurs of the Council of Europe and the issues approached, the Romanian government spokeswoman said:

Romania's Government reasserts its request for Romania's entering into the Council of Europe and expresses its hope that the decision related to this issue will be adopted as soon as possible, in a forthcoming parliamentary assembly. Moreover, Romania's Government reasserts its decision to firmly continue the process of adjusting Romanian social legislation mechanisms to the principles and criteria of operation in the Council of Europe.

The Romanian society is undergoing an irreversible process of strengthening democracy, political pluralism and the state of law, of the achievements in the market economy, and is deeply attached to the European standards of observing the fundamental human rights and freedoms, including for the minorities. A new constitution was elaborated, meeting the requests of a modern democratic society, with the help of some prominent experts in the constitutional rights, and the European Council included, and is furthering the process of adjusting Romania's legislation to its provisions and institutions.

At the same time, the government is aware of the fact that in a transition society like Romania's, there are many things to further be done and that these will be achieved within the context of furthering the process of democracy in the country. In this respect, the Council of Europe can provide an important support.

Once with the conclusion of the procedure of admission into the Council of Europe, Romania will adhere to the European Convention of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms and to its additional protocols and will take act for totally harmonizing, in the shortest time possible, the legislation and domestic procedures regarding human rights with the provisions of the convention and its protocols.

Moreover, Romania expresses its openness to adhere to the European Chart of regional or the minority languages, said the government spokeswoman.

Reply to Alleged Breach of Danube Accord

AU1703201993 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1821 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Today Moscow Radio carried the following news: The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has accused Romania of breaching the rules of navigation on the Danube River. The case was brought up in the letter of Yugoslavia's Foreign Minister, Vladislav Jovanovic, which was distributed at UN headquarters as document of the UN Security Council. The ban imposed by Romanian authorities on Yugoslav vessels concerning their passage through theIron Gates II channel—which links Yugoslav harbors and inhabited localities—is not based on any UN Security Council resolution and it violates the Danube Convention and other conventions regulating navigation on that river.

Commenting on the issue, sources at the Romanian Foreign Affairs Ministry said that there is no question of any accusations against Romania formulated by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at the UN Security Council. The truth is—the same sources said—that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has requested that the UN Sanctions Committee should reconsider the issue of traffic through the Iron Gates II sluice to allow vessels under the Yugoslav banner to do what in shipping terms is called cabotage—that is, the passage from one port to another.

The same Romanian diplomatic sources have admitted that the letter of the Yugoslav foreign affairs minister contains some reference to the fact that the measures taken by Romanian authorities forbidding Yugoslav vessels to pass through the Iron Gates II sluice do not comply with UN Security Council resolutions. However, the sources said, such an interpretation is not justified, because the interdiction concerning the passage of Yugoslav vessels through the Iron Gates II sluice was confirmed by the UN Security Council in a letter it sent during those days to Romanian authorities. The Romanian authorities had no other option but to observe that interpretation of the UN resolutions.

The Romanian sources also mentioned the fact that after the letter of the Yugoslav foreign affairs minister had been distributed at UN headquarters, the permanent Romanian mission in New York was authorized to turn again to the UN Security Council, supporting the request of the Yugoslav foreign minister in the sense that the specialized body of the Security Council, namely its Sanction Committee, should accept this time that Yugoslav vessels—under adequate international control—be permitted to pass through the Iron Gates II sluice, provided they are exclusively carrying out the operation of cabotage.

The Yugoslav side was notified about those intentions of the Romanian side.

Naturally, the diplomatic sources in Bucharest emphasized, Romanian authorit.es will have to comply with whatever decision the UN Sanctions Committee makes, as they did before in similar situations.

Recognition of Moldova's Independence Justified

AU1703143093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0938 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 17/3/1993—"Irrespective of Romania's having acknowledged or not the independence of the Republic of Moldova, it would still have been acknowledged—the way it actually is—by over 120 countries" and "it would not have been a matter of international status but rather a delicate issue in Romania's relations with Chisinau," told the publication EXPRES Adrian Nastase, the current speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, in answering questions about his activity as foreign minister. "What is not quite well understood," Adrian Nastase explained, is that these

relations "were changed by the political atmosphere in Moscow and the perspective which the West lent to the relations with the Russian Federation." He added that "attempts have been made also for the introduction of the Republic of Moldova's issues closer to the solutions for the Baltic countries, but the West has taken an interest in supporting Moscow and the Russian Federation so as to keep it from falling politically below a certain level."

DPRK Nonproliferation Treaty Pullout Viewed

AU1703182993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1700 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 17/3/1993—The spokesman for the Romanian Foreign Ministry, Mircea Geoana, announced on March 17, that the Romanian minister of foreign affairs, Teodor Melescanu, would pay an official visit to Italy, at the invitation of its Italian counterpart, Emilio Colombo. Bilateral issues will be discussed as well as regional, European and international problems.

Minister Teodor Melescanu will go to Vatican on March 26.

The Romanian Foreign Ministry also informed that early next week Nicolae Andronati, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Moldova, who chairs the Interministerial Committee for Romania's Liaison with the Republic of Moldova, would have an interview in Bucharest with the Romanian foreign minister, Teodor Melescanu. Experts will have a sitting before the said interview, on the evolution of the ties between the two Romanian states, on other issues of mutual interest.

On the statement released by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea announcing its withdrawal from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, Romanian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mircea Geoana told a news conference on Wednesday, March 17 that "like the other countries participating in the treaty, Romania has learned with concern of the DPRK's withdrawal, as this would create a breach in the non-proliferation system and result in serious consequences on a regional and general scale.

We regret the DPRK's intention to withdraw from the treaty and express our hope that the North-Korean authorities will reconsider and cooperate to clear suspicions and defuse tension in the Korean peninsula."

Spokesman Geoana added that a Romanian delegation would express the same stand at the special session of the IAEA Council of Governors in Vienna on March 18.

Censure Motion Against Government Constitutional

AU1703124893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2000 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 16/3/1993—"The motion of censure tabled by opposition parties against the Vacaroiu government [due to be debated on 19 March] is in keeping with the Constitution," the president of the Constitutional Court, Vasile Gionea, told the daily ROMANIA LIBERA. Mr. Gionea added that according to Romania's Constitution, one fourth of the MPs can table a motion of censure, that shall be debated three days after its tabling. If the motion is voted for, Romania's president has to name someone to form a new government. If the respective person is not accepted, the president of Romania can dissolve parliament—after having consulted the president of the Senate, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, the leaders of the parliamentary groups—and organise elections, specified the president of the Constitutional Court.

At this moment the parliament has to submit the motion of censure to vote, concluded Vasile Gionea.

Coposu on Censure Motion

AU1703130893 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] In an interview granted to our radio station today, Mr. Corneliu Coposu, president of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party [PNTCD], explained the reasons for submitting the censure motion at this particular time. Mr. Coposu said that it would have been immoral for the opposition to take advantage of the difficult and compulsory last stage of the price liberalization process on 1 May—and present the motion afterward—since that measure has to be taken anyway, regardless of who is in power. Mr. Corneliu Coposu said that the motion was presented now in order to emphasize the opposition's dissociation from what he called a government program that is not backed by solutions and implementation methods. Consequently, the motion's objective is not to topple the government, but to distance oneself for this program, given the fact that the opposition has a valid alternative solution to overcome the current crisis.

Referring to rumors regarding the National Salvation Front's [FSN] joining the Democratic Convention [CDR], the PNTCD leader said that the issue of the FSN's adherence has not been raised by anyone and that no step has been taken in this respect.

PDAR To Vote Against Motion

AU1703182793 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1521 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 17/3/1993—The senators of the Romanian Democratic Agrarian Party, [PDAR], will vote against the motion of censure the opposition

tabled against the Vacaroiu Government, PDAR Chairman Victor Surdu told a Wednesday, March 17, news conference. Although the program can be improved and needs corrections, some of its targets coincide with the PDAR options, added Surdu.

Human Rights Colloquium Issues Declaration

AU1703201093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1423 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 17/3/1993—An international seminar on "The Reform of International Human Rights Institutions" closed Wednesday, March 17, in Bucharest with a declaration that is going to be forwarded to a Vienna conference, to be held in June.

The declaration, including seven sections, makes a number of proposals such as: The UN Human Rights Center to be vested with greater authority and be headed by a high commissioner having special prerogatives; creation of a special fund and a special body destined to promote education on human rights; creation of a UN body for the promotion of family issues and of a program to coordinate the family policies of the world states.

The declaration also speaks about the control system of the Human Rights Convention, about the ethnic minorities' rights, and the states' right to development.

The declaration salutes the idea that the UN Security Council set up an international court charged with passing sentences on the people who have gravely broken human rights on the territory of former Yugoslavia, and proposes that the UN specialized bodies also examine conflicts such as that in the eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova.

Iliescu's Message to Colloquium

AU1703131593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1137 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 17/3/1993—President Ion Iliescu stressed that Romania attached to human rights the outstanding importance imposed by the dynamics of home and foreign policy at this turn of century and millennium. "The imperatives of peace and development," wrote he in a message sent on March 17 to the participants in the international colloquium on "Reform of International Human Rights Protection Institutes" held in Bucharest, "make of the securing of human rights in an equitable, efficient and well-balanced system, a must for present and future Romania which is increasingly integrated in Europe and in the world."

The president also stressed in the message that the unconditional respect for fundamental rights and freedoms was the essential target of the whole effort the Romanian society has committed to after the December 1989 revolution, the purpose and end of the reform and of the state of law. Romania's president expressed in this respect his support to any legislative or institutional initiative meant to guarantee, in the spirit and letter of the Constitution, the unhampered exercise of human rights by all citizens of the country. He considered the commitment included the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, for which the constitution offers the needed guarantees as regards the right to preservation, development and expression of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity.

Ion Iliescu showed in his message the unquestionable merit of Romania's Constitution that stipulates in this respect "the prevalence of the international regulations Romania is a party to, over the domestic ones, which ensures for all citizens of the country rights on a par with the highest generally accepted standards in Europe."

The Romanian head of state hoped that the recommendations made by the symposium participants would account for a valuable contribution to the success of the forthcoming UN conference on human rights.

Appointment of Harghita, Covasna Prefects Viewed

AU1703203593 Bucharest AZI in Romanian 12 Mar 93 p 6

[Interview with Octav Cosmanca, state secretary of the Department of Local Administration, by Stelian Motiu; place and date not given: "The Prefects—Links Between the Government and the Country"]

[Excerpts] [Motiu] Mr. State Secretary, your provocative speech in Parliament on the current situation of the county prefect's offices has triggered a great deal of controversial discussion, especially in the mass media. Are the measures announced by you really necessary, do they fit into a program, are they pursuing long-term goals? Can you or, to be more precise, do you want to fend off accusations coming both from the Left and the Right?

[Cosmanca] Concerning the reorganization of the county prefect's offices, I can tell you that those institutions play a vitally important role in the good functioning of the social aggregate, that role being precisely defined and rigorously detailed by Bill Number 69/1991. I would like to highlight two aspects that seem important to me: First, it is the legal responsibility of the prefects and, naturally, of the prefect's offices to supervise the way in which the Constitution and the country's laws are observed at the local level; second, I would like to mention the continuous effort made by the county prefects to ensure the implementation of the government program that was accepted by Romania's Parliament. In other words, the prefects, together with other decentralized public services of their counties, are virtually acting as county-level governments designated to materialize the government program. [passage omitted]

However, in certain counties we were surprised to see that heads of public services did not have the faintest idea about the government program and its contents, totally ignoring even the fundamental legal stipulations

concerning various fields. Even more serious, they knew nothing about the most elementary legal regulations of the accord on public life administration. Considering all this, we want to strongly insist on improving the activity of the county administrative commissions, which include the prefect, the chairman of the county council, the mayor of the county capital city, and the heads of the decentralized public services in each county. [passage omitted]

[Motiu] The unconventional solution of appointing [in 1992, by the Theodor Stolojan cabinet] two prefects [a Romanian and a Hungarian ethnic] in the Harghita and Covasna Counties stirred waves of dispute that reached as high as the government and, actually, the whole power structure, although they may not have matched the dramatic dimensions of the issue itself. What is your department and the government planning to do—if I may ask—with respect to that issue?

[Cosmanca] The government is seriously preoccupied with the situation in Harghita and Covasna Counties. The situation will probably be solved according to the principles and stipulations of our country's Constitution. One quite simple thing is clearly stated by that document: The government is to appoint one prefect in each of the counties. It is neither supposed to appoint two or three prefects, nor a two-headed leadership, as it is currently. We want to return to normal, to re-establish legality, and that is why we will appoint one prefect and one subprefect in each of those counties, too, as stipulated by our Constitution and Bill No. 69. I hope that our move will be interpreted correctly, especially by the Harghita and Covasna County Councils, because the political group which claims to represent those counties, UDMR [Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania], vowed to respect the Constitution, although it had voted against it. That pledge has to materialize now, in current everyday political life, in practice, in the political will to ensure the continuation of reform. What is more, the reform process should even be accelerated. However, such a process is inconceivable without an elementary respect for the Constitution and our laws, as they are the expression of national consensus. [passage omitted]

Opinion Poll Shows Disinterest in Politics

AU1703130993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1152 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 17/3/1993—"Calm in the country" is seen by 27 percent of Romanians as the most important political issue in Romania, shows an opinion poll carried out by the Romanian Institute of Opinion Polling (IRSOP), whose results were printed by the daily LIBERTATEA of today. Twenty two percent of the population consider the priority issue of Romania's policy is "to avoid war with neighbouring countries"; 18 percent—"the creation of a market economy"; 14 percent—"democracy"; eight percent—"relations with the West"; four percent—"communism influence"; three percent—"relations with the Republic of Moldova"; and two percent—"relations with the Hungarians."

"The greatest influence on Romania's policy" is held, in the opinion of 20 percent of the population, by Parliament; 20 percent believe that it belongs to the presidency, 19 percent to the political parties, 16 percent to the government, 13 percent to the media, five percent to the electorate, and two percent to the unions. Asked about their interest as regards politics, eight percent answered that they were "very much" interested, 23 percent said they were "quite enough" interested, 45 percent "not very much" interested, while 23 percent said they were "not at all" interested in politics.

Two per cent of the Romanian population have "a very good" opinion on the activity carried out by the government up to now; 26 percent—a "quite good" opinion; 44 percent—a "not so good" opinion; and 22 percent are holding "very bad" opinions. Asked if they were pleased with the way in which democracy is progressing in Romania, two percent answered that they were "very pleased," 17 percent "pleased enough," 52 percent "not very pleased," and 27 percent were "not pleased at all." Related to the much debated issue of keeping high-ranking officials in similar posts before the December 1989 revolution, 74 percent of the population answered that they "do agree if they were best experts," while 21 percent consider that they "all have to be replaced."

As for the Romanian politicians of the present, two percent of the population hold a "very good" opinion; 24 percent—a "quite good" opinion; 53 percent—a "not so good" opinion"; and 17 percent—an "extremely bad" opinion.

Eighty four percent of the interviewees consider that "most of Romanian politicians are speaking too much and do nothing," 79 percent are of the opinion that "most politicians are ready to make any promises in order to gain more votes," 72 percent that "a majority of Romanian politicians are seeing their own interests than the good of the country," 65 percent that "most politicians are more interested in strengthening the position of their parties than solving the country's problems."

Twenty two percent of the population consider that "there are no great political figures in any of the parties," while 56 percent think quite the contrary.

A government formed by the opposition would better succeed in getting the country out of the crisis in the opinion of 33 percent of the population, while 49 percent consider the opposite. Thirty seven percent of the population favour a "coalition government," 27 per cent "an authoritarian leadership," 16 percent "a government of the Democratic National Salvation Front," while 13 percent favour "a government of the Democratic Convention of Romania."

Variants for Eliminating Subsidies Discussed

AU1703131093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1221 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 17/3/1993—Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu extensively informed the executive in its meeting of March 17 about the unfolding of the action for eliminating the state subsidies given so far to a string of products. Vacaroiu said that several calculation variants were elaborated for the reconsideration of the salaries and the other incomes of the population, so that it may be as little as possible affected by the new prices.

The variants will be completed by Friday, March 19, and they will be given for analysis to the union federations on March 22.

Experts of the Ministry of Finance and of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection will answer between Friday and Monday all questions of the union federations regarding the calculations of indexation of the citizens' salaries and other incomes.

The executive plans to organize a meeting next week with representatives of the trade union federations to analyze the variants proposed by the government for the elimination of the subsidies and the compensation of the employees' and pensioners' incomes. The most suitable variant will then be chosen during an interview of the prime minister with the union leaders.

The executive will present at the same time to the two chambers the report on the unfolding of this action of great importance for the reform.

Nicolae Vacaroiu said that by his opinion the best variant proposed by the government was that according to which while applying the measures of elimination of subsidies, expected to become effective on May 1, a best possible compensation should be obtained of the family budget expenditures, even of cent percent in the case of certain segments of the population with low incomes. The calculations in this respect were made based on the current family budget in separate sections for employees, pensioners and pensioners with small pensions.

Premier Vacaroiu also showed that the elimination of the state subsidies had to proceed in perfect transparence.

Union Council Chairman Begins Visit

AU1703182893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1706 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 17/3/1993—On an invitation of the Romanian Parliament, Wednesday, March 17, Chairman of the Interparliamentary Union's Council Michael Marshall [name as received] arrived on a two-day visit to Bucharest.

On Otopeni Airport he told ROMPRES he would have interviews with Romanian President Ion Iliescu and the prime minister and he would discuss international matters as well as the modalities for Romania's cooperation with the United Kingdom.

The visit's agenda also includes meetings with the presidents and members of the standing committees of the two chambers of Parliament, as well as with the leadership of the foreign ministry.

No Response Yet From Mladic to Morillon Appeal

AU1703172493 Paris AFP in English 1702 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Mali Zvornik, Yugoslavia, March 17 (AFP)—A U.N. aid convoy trying to reach the Moslem enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia will be forced to spend another night on Serbian territory, a U.N. Protection Force [UNPROFOR] spokesman said here Wednesday [17 March].

The convoy has been blocked at the bridge over the Drina River, separating Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, for six days.

Spokesman Bill Karaktine said no response had been received by late afternoon from Bosnian Serb military leader Ratko Mladic to an appeal made earlier by General Philippe Morillon, head of U.N. forces in Bosnia, that the vehicles should be allowed to pass.

Morillon called on the Bosnian Serb leadership to authorise the provision of humanitarian aid to the enclave of Srebrenica.

In a statement issued from Srebrenica and addressed to the Serbs, Morillon said he had established his headquarters in the enclave "in the interest of peace and in the interest of your nation.

"Here, around me there are thousands of children in great danger of starving to death unless the convoys are able to get here. Nobody in the world would accept such a tragedy were it to take place. (...)

"Peace is at stake. Peace is knocking at the gates. ... Peace will grant uou what you desire, respecting everybody's right to liberty and dignity. (...)

"Trust the United Nations. You know very well that we are not your enemy. I understand that it is also for you, the Serbs, that I came to Srebrenica and that I will remain here".

The Bosnian Serbs were continuing to insist that the convoy could proceed escorted only by two Canadian armoured vehicles, a condition which UNPROFOR has rejected, Karaktine said.

Late afternoon Wednesday a 47-vehicle convoy taking supplies to UNPROFOR units at Sarajevo, held up here since early Tuesday, was allowed to cross into Bosnia.

Convoy For Srebrenica Still Being Held Up

AU1703172093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Report by Zoran Pirolic from Sarajevo]

[Excerpts] The nerve-racking game between UNPROFOR and the aggressor's side over the free movement of convoys with humanitarian aid is still in progress, and we do not know who will give in first, but we do know who loses the most—the people in Srebrenica, Gorazde, and Zepa who are not reached by the food and medicine.

The 13-truck strong convoy has still not crossed into Bosnia-Herzegovina, even though the pressure on the aggressor's side is increasing. Reporters have been told in the Sarajevo headquarters of UNPROFOR that even Sadako Ogata, high commissioner of the UNHCR, intervened yesterday with Milosevic and Karadzic to obtain free passage for the convoy to Srebrenica. Promises were given, but the convoy for Srebrenica has still not set off toward its destination.

General Philip Morillon, commander of UNPROFOR for Bosnia-Herzegovina, was supposed to continue talks with the aggressor's side, but the French general was told that there would be no talks as, allegedly, everything had been solved.

At least two demands by the aggressor's side are disputed now: the evacuation of the Serbian population from Tuzla, and the possibility of having the convoy head for Srebrenica without any armed escort—the latter because UNPROFOR soldiers were allegedly passing on arms to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, which the members of the peace forces consider a ridiculous and unfounded remark. [passage omitted]

The people of besieged Srebrenica are still getting aid from the air. Last night five U.S. Hercules transport planes dropped five containers with food and medicine over Srebrenica. They contained over 31 tons of food, and one metric ton of medicine. According to Peter Kessler, representative of the UNHCR, that is not much for a city of 70,000 people, but it is precious both as aid that can save lives and a symbolic gesture that Srebrenica is not forgotten.

Some UNHCR Convoys Allowed To Leave Zvornik

LD1703165993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1617 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Mar (TANJUG)—Convoys of the UN High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] taking humanitarian aid to Sarajevo and Gorazde, which have been held up in Zvornik since Monday [15 March], continued their journey this afternoon. TANJUG was told by Lyndell Sachs, a spokeswoman of UNHCR's Belgrade office.

According to her, a convoy destined for Tuzla has also been allowed to go through.

"The permission was obtained rather late, so the convoy [for Tuzla] will leave tomorrow morning," Sachs explained.

The convoy taking food to Srebrenica is still held up in Zvornik, the commission's spokeswoman confirmed.

In reply to a question about whether the delays to the convoy in Zvornik were conditioned by the demands of the Muslim authorities in Srebrenica that civilians and the wounded be evacuated only by air, she said the convoy is to take aid and not evacuate residents of Srebrenica.

Confirmation of Air Attack on Srebrenica

AU1703121893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] The UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] in former Yugoslavia has verified information and reports about military use of aircraft in air strikes against two villages in the vicinity of Srebrenica, according to a statement issued by the UNPROFOR command in Zagreb last night.

The statement, signed by UNPROFOR public liaison officer Shannon Boyd, says that this is the first confirmation of the reports about air attacks since the passing of Resolution No. 781 of the UN Security Council, which bans flights above Bosnia-Herzegovina without UNPROFOR's approval. According to the information of UN members on the field, three fixed-wing, single-engine aircraft, one of them a biplane on 13 March attacked two villages near Srebrenica. After dropping nine bombs on these two villages the aircraft flew across River Drina toward the so-called Yugoslavia, Croatian Radio report.

Serbs Warned 'Thousands of Children' May Starve

AU1703153493 Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Sarajevo, March 17 (AFP)—Thousands of children may starve to death if the Serbs do not allow a humanitarian aid convoy to enter a besieged eastern Bosnian enclave, the U.N. commander in Bosnia said Wednesday [17 March].

"Here around me there are thousands of children in great danger of starving to death unless the convoys can reach the Moslem enclave of Srebrenica," said General Philippe Morillon in a communique aimed at the Serb forces.

"Peace is at stake" and "peace will grant you what you desire respecting everybody's right to liberty and dignity," Morillon added.

Morillon has been in Srebrenica since Thursday trying to convince the Serbs to allow U.N. convoys to come through to the town. He also appealed to the Serbs by saying, "I have come to Srebrenica in the interest of peace and in the interest of your nation."

Sacirbey Expects Agreement To Be Signed in New York

AU1803095793 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] The peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina continue in New York today. Bosnia-Herzegovina UN Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey stated that President Alija Izetbegovic, who is supposed to meet the cochairmen of the Geneva conference today, has objections to Serbs having any authority in Sarajevo province, where the Government seat is going to be. However, Sacirbey said that the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government is close to the signing of the agreement, adding that the legal organs of Bosnia-Herzegovina are also demanding fewer but essential changes in the maps, and that the border and custom police be under the control of the central government.

Croats Call for End to 'Lawlessness' in Sarajevo

AU1703190693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] The Croatian Democratic Community for the Centar commune of Sarajevo stresses in an announcement today that we are daily witnesses of lawlessness, criminal negligence and force.

The most recent case occurred on 14 March 1993 in Dobrovoljacka Street, Mazuranica Street, and Skenderija, when the supposedly nonexistent military police arrested and took away a group of citizens to an unknown destination in full view of a patrol of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. We wonder who was supposed to be subject to the ban on carrying arms in the city and the ban on forceful entry into apartments without the presence of the legal authorities.

If the Ministry of Internal Affairs is incapable of establishing lawful conditions on the territory of this commune, it should allow the citizens to organize themselves in a fight against such acts, or we might see more cases like the one with the deceased Gogala [Croat official allegedly murdered by a Muslim paramilitary group].

The Croatian Democratic Community is participating in the authorities in this commune, and in the defense of Sarajevo with the units of the Croatian Defense Council. We call upon the authorities to stop turning a blind eye to acts of terror or the Croatian Democratic Community on this territory will cease to bestow legitimacy upon them with its participation. This is said in the statement by the Croatian Democratic Community for the Centar commune.

Health Minister Discusses Outbreak of Diseases

AU1703210493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Interview with Dr. Mustafa Beganovic, Bosnia-Herzegovina Health Minister, by Nikola Bilic; in Sarajevo on 17 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Bilic] Mr. Beganovic, what are the health conditions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly in Sarajevo, since before the war all parts of our republic had a very well organized epidemiological service?

[Beganovic] To tell you the truth, the health conditions in the republic are very serious, while in Sarajevo—about which I know more—they are extremely serious, and there is a threat that they will become even worse. [passage omitted]

Now despite these horrible conditions in which we have to live, without healthy drinking water, without electricity, without a proper system of waste disposal, and so on, we do not have any epidemics, but that is thanks to the education and organization before the war. That is paying off now.

[Bilic] You must be expecting problems, particularly in view of the diseases that can be caught from dirty hands, and of course the consequences of hunger.

[Beganovic] We have not had for a long time certain diseases like malaria, typhus, [word indistinct], syphilis, child paralysis, and so on. We have not had rabies. However, we can expect all that now because of the deteriorating hygienic and epidemiological conditions of life and work. Because of the lack of drinking water, there is a danger of enterocolitis appearing, of dysentery, infectious hepatitis, [words indistinct] and various skin diseases.

[Bilic] What is the situation like with tuberculosis? We have not had it for a long time to any real degree.

[Beganovic] As you say, tuberculosis and other diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, child paralysis, measles, German measles, mumps, and so on. These are diseases that have to be fought by repeated inoculations to achieve immunity, and because it is impossible to get the vaccines, there is a possibility of such diseases emerging, even though they had been practically eradicated in our country.

I have to mention here that, for example, lice have increased ten-fold in the space of a year, but UNICEF has been helping us a lot with vaccines and I must praise them for their success in getting them in. [passage omitted]

[Bilic] Mr. Beganovic, spring is with us again, and spring brings higher temperatures. Piles of rubbish lie all around us. What preventive measures can we take?

[Beganovic] We fear that, because of the poor and slow disposal of waste materials, and particularly those of organic origins and health institutions, we could have widespread disease and, according to some information we have recently received, there have already been cases of dog rabies as pets are let loose in the streets because of the lack of food. We fear that animal corpses might just lie around in the streets, and if a rabid animal comes into contact with a person, or if a person gets in contact with the carcass of a rabid animal, there is the possibility of an outbreak of rabies. I hope, we want to let the people know that they must remove rubbish in any way they can, they should bury it or disinfect it, and they should not wait for someone else to come and do it for them. There are extremely serious problems finding fuel to have the rubbish taken away.

[Bilic] Thank you very much, Dr. Beganovic. The message is that great caution is needed when it comes to health.

Hadzic Demands Withdrawal of Government Forces

AU1703212893 Paris AFP in English 2048 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Geneva, March 17 (AFP)—The president of the self-proclaimed Serb republic of Krajina, Goran Hadzic, demanded Wednesday [17 March] the withdrawal of Croatian forces from the Krajina region as a precondition for negotiations with the authorities in Zagreb.

"We will sit at the negotiating table with the Croats when they have ceased fire and withdrawn", Hadzic said on his arrival here for peace talks. [passage omitted]

The situation in Krajina was aggravated Tuesday by an attack Tuesday by Croatian forces in the north of the region in areas placed under UNPROFOR military control.

Issue of Nuclear Waste Deposits in Krajina

93BA0701B Belgrade NIN in Serbo-Croatian 26 Feb 93 p 32

[Article by Jovan Janjic: "Radioactive Croatia: Waste on Waste?"]

[Text] *Are Tudjman's generals really fighting only to build storage facilities for nuclear waste on eventually "freed" territories?*

The breakup of Yugoslavia was an opportunity for some to grab as much as possible from its "waste," and for some others an opportunity to deposit lethal waste on its ruins. This is confirmed by two reports by the Republic of Croatia on a plan for depositing radioactive material in areas where Serbs, to whom the leadership of the Republic of Serbian Krajina recently came, live.

One plan, which speaks about the choice of locations for the deposit of radioactive waste, was presented at a closed session of the Subgroup for Atomic Energy of the former Hexagonal in Pakas (Hungary) on 15 September of last year. And the other which, supposedly, carries the name "Deposit of Radioactive Material in Areas in Croatia Caught Up in the War," was expected to be delivered at a symposium from 28 February to 3 March in Arizona in the United States.

Based on the (alleged) title of the second report, it is already clear that "areas caught up in the war" are territories in which Serbs are the majority population.

Criteria

In the introduction of a report entitled "Choice of a Location for Deposits of Radioactive Waste in the Republic of Croatia" (in which it is written in the title: "Public Enterprise for Handling PAO [Radioactive Waste], Sava Road 41/IV, Zagreb, Croatia") it says:

"The Republic of Croatia is faced with a current problem—the final deposit of radioactive waste—which is closely tied to some important aspects of social life, among which the development of the national economy and the protection of the natural environment are the most important. Current quantities of radioactive waste, which various sources in Croatia are producing—industry, medicine, and scientific institutions—do not exceed 53 cubic meters, but the Republic of Croatia has a supplemental obligation to store half of the total waste produced by the Krsko NE [nuclear power plant]. It is expected that this NE, in the course of its existence, located in the Republic of Slovenia but built with the joint investment of Slovenia and Croatia, is producing about 20,000 cubic meters of radioactive waste of a low, medium, and unaired level. Because of this Croatia has an unavoidable obligation to build a storage facility for nuclear waste as soon as possible. At the same time, this undertaking can be of benefit for the future development of the independent national economy."

The text further reads:

"Activity in choosing locations for the deposit of radioactive waste in Croatia began in 1988.... In Croatia the ministries of energy and regional planning, through Croatian electrical distribution, authorized the Institute for Urban Planning of Croatia to do the study 'Photographing, Exploring, and Assessing Terrain Suitable for Electric Power Plants Based on Fossil Fuels and Nuclear Installations on the Territory of the Republic of Croatia.' The aim of the study was the approval of appropriate terrain for building thermal and hydroelectric power plants, as well as locations for depositing radioactive waste, so that this can be included in the Regional Plan of Croatia. The criteria for selection were defined by July 1989. The Croatian Government carried out an assessment of the validity of these criteria. Using a method of photography by which unsuitable terrain on the whole territory is determined, eight potential locations were approved in the fall of 1990." (See map [not reproduced here].)

In citing the criteria on the occasion of the choice of locations, there were mentioned: "population density," "protection of cultural legacy," "cultural inheritance," "national defense".... Obviously, these criteria did not have the interests of the Serbian people in mind in the slightest. On the contrary.

The whole project, as is written, "will follow the activity in developing appropriate legislative regulations." It is then emphasized: "Since there exists an urgent economic need to provide additional energy sources in Croatia, the choice of locations for thermal-electric and nuclear facilities will be considered in the course of this project."

In the conclusion it reads:

"The construction of storage facilities for radioactive waste will be a *conditio sine qua non* [necessary condition] in the near future of Croatia. With regard to the existence and the future quantities of radioactive

waste—which are emerging in various places—that Croatia is obligated to store, no dilemma exists 'whether to build a storage facility for radioactive waste or not,' but 'where and how' to build it, and to preserve the natural environment and human welfare'...."

As is seen from the passage cited, Croatia has decided, therefore, not only on the storage of domestic and radioactive waste, but also on the construction of "nuclear facilities." The French colonel Andre Tranije, president of the Paris society "Memorial to the Eastern Front 1915-18," warned against this on 1 April of last year, in a letter sent to French newspapers. Col. Tranije claimed in his letter that "Croatia, in addition to the existing one in Krsko, is building, with the assistance of German technicians, still another nuclear reactor whose program includes nuclear weapons." But, it is as if the "democratic world" does not want to hear.

To Guard With One's Life

It is known that the radioactivity from the planned deposits of nuclear waste involves fatal consequences, especially in the Drava and Sava river basin. These rivers would carry radioactive material to the Danube, and would thus pollute the banks of this river, right up to the Black Sea. The leadership of the Republic of Serbian Krajina also warned the embassies of Rumania and Bulgaria recently.

As early as several years ago, before Serbian villages were burned down, unusual occurrences were observed in the area of Papuk. The top of a mountain was enclosed by barbed wire kilometers long and 2.5 m high by local residents for unknown reasons. People were assigned to "guard it with their lives." After this, scores of individuals ill with a bone disease were recorded in this area, and a professor from Slavonska Pozega discovered plants poisoned with radioactive particles. This was cause for representatives of the Assembly of the Slavonska Pozega district at that time to seek an explanation for the mystery many times. They did not receive a reply.

The leadership of the Republic of Serbian Krajina has sent a letter to the general secretary of the United Nations, Butrus-Ghali, in which they are seeking to send a specialized team to western Slavonia, which will confirm whether the Croats have already begun with the storage of nuclear and other radioactive waste.

Serb-Croat Slavonia Agreement Detailed

93BA0721A Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 26 Feb 93 pp 6-7

[Article by Krunoslava Banic: "The Ecimovici Have Nevertheless 'Softened'"]

[Text] Is it possible that the Serbs in western Slavonia got tired of life in isolation and the ever greater misery and poverty on the reservation called UNPA [UN-Protected Area], Sector West? Did it receive a confirmation thereby of the thesis that the difficult life in the occupied parts of Croatia would at some point bring the Serbs to their senses and simply force them to accept the extended Croatian hand? There are quite a few people who think that western Slavonia is indeed the key to the lock known as "peaceful resolution of the war in Croatia." That is, refugees from western Slavonia have moved in large numbers into the houses of the Croats driven out of eastern Slavonia and Baranja, from which most of the Croats and all the other non-Serbs were driven out. Even for purely technical reasons, the refugees first have to be moved out of western Slavonia so that then the persons displaced form eastern Slavonia and Baranja could return.... It sounds good, but after everything that has been dumped from Serbia on Croatia and the Croats in the last three years, with the wholehearted help of the Croatian Serbs, no one can any longer be certain of anything. Are we to believe the outlaw Serbs or not? They themselves, no one else, taught us not to believe them "even when they are bearing gifts," but then again, if Croatia wants to avoid war, the bloodshed and all the horrors it brings with it, and Croatia has a particular desire for that, only discussions and negotiations with those outlaw Serbs can bring a peaceful solution. That is the main reason why the Daruvar Agreement of the Croatian authorities with the leaders of the outlaw Serbs from western Slavonia came about at all.

It is hard to say whether the time and events to come will bring a realization of what was signed; it is wiser to wait and see.

They Wanted To Talk Even Earlier

It is a fact that for the second time since the Serbian rebellion began in Croatia, the initiative for talks and the reaching of an agreement with the Croatian authorities has come from western Slavonia. Two years ago, in March 1991, a delegation made up of representatives of the Slavonia-Baranja SDS [Serbian Democratic Party] asked to be received by the Croatian president, Dr. Franjo Tudjman, which was given an affirmative answer. The Serbs were very happy with the meeting; they said this even in unofficial conversations. That was supposed to be the beginning of normalization of the Serbs' relations with the Croatian authorities and with the Croatian state, which was just being born at that time. That Slavonian initiative was rudely smothered, simply destroyed and trampled on by the vehement Belgrade response. Some of the Serbs who took part in the talks at that time were uncompromisingly expelled from the SDS, which finally became altogether Milosevic's long arm. Observers well remember that time, which is not so far back. But it seems as though it is very far back, because a horrible war, death, and destruction have followed.

After that round of horror, which many people think is not over yet, an initiative has again come from western Slavonia to normalize relations with the Croatian

authorities and the Croatian state. The Daruvar Agreement is by means harmless in its 10 points, judging by what is written in it and signed at the bottom.

Still more interesting is that some of the participants and signatories of these new talks were in the delegation of the Slavonia-Baranja SDS two years ago. What has happened to them in the meantime is also interesting. We will just mention two of the six names in all—Veljko Dzakula and Dusko Ecimovic. We are quite well aware that they did not stand aloof during the aggression against Croatia, but took an active part in it. Veljko Dzakula as president of the "SAO [Serbian Autonomous Oblast] Western Slavonia" and the revered chief there, and Dusko Ecimovic as "minister in the Knin central government." It is worth mentioning that Ecimovic was one of those removed in the recent Knin purge. We also recall Ecimovic from the Autoput [national highway in the SFRY], when the passage of numerous teams of journalists from Zagreb to Lipovac was supposed to symbolize the opening of the Autoput, with the help of the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force], as one of the points of the unfulfilled Vance Plan. Ecimovic at that time, forbidding the passage of the teams of journalists, said that the "Serbian people does not allow it."

Why Precisely Western Slavonia?

A few months later, just a few days ago in Daruvar, that same person participated and put his signature to an agreement whose realization would truly signify a wide open door to normalization of relations between the rebel Serbs and the Croatian state and the road toward a peaceful resolution of the war in Croatia within internationally recognized state borders.

By all appearances it is no accident that this should have happened in western Slavonia. Every analysis of the position of the regions of Croatia that are now occupied shows that western Slavonia is in the most difficult position. Occupied Croatia is made up of three entities linked to one another only across occupied Bosnian territories. Knin and parts of Banija, Kordun, and Lika, if we are talking only about occupied regions, depend directly on help from Serbia. And that aid, although in Serbia itself things are increasingly difficult because of the sanctions, is nevertheless arriving regularly. Knin would otherwise sink into complete collapse. But as far as eastern Slavonia is concerned, Baranja in particular, that is by far the richest occupied region of Croatia. Baranja was not even destroyed, and life there is possible, if at a very low level, for all the numerous difficulties and poverty, because both Baranja and eastern Slavonia have been thoroughly plundered. Western Slavonia, however, depends directly on aid from Banja Luka, and it is not possible to live on that, because Banja Luka cannot provide the food, medical treatment, and heat even for itself. Western Slavonia was the first to experience what also awaits the other occupied regions in the quite near or a bit more distant future. Is it that that has brought the rebellious Serbs there to their senses, if that has really occurred? Do they now, after everything that has happened in the meantime, really want to wrest themselves from Milosevic's firm embrace, in which a majority of the rebellious Croatian Serbs have been squeezed?

Insofar as it can, Croatia will help them generously; it showed that in the Daruvar discussions. But that still depends to the greatest degree on them themselves.

The rebellious Croatian Serbs gambled away a great deal of that in the expansionist Serbian aggression against Croatia. Too much according to many, because Croatia will not forget the lives and the property lost in the war imposed on it. Lives which Croatia wants to save are involved here. The Croatian public must also be aware of that argument, but it is up to the still rebellious Serbs to make the first moves and show what they really want.

[Document, p 7]

Facsimile of a Portion of the Daruvar Agreement, With Signatures

AGREEMENT

Done on 18 February 1993 in Daruvar

in the presence of representatives of the UNPROFOR [illegible signatures]

have met:

b. [letters as published] unhindered movement of private traffic on highways, including the Zagreb-Belgrade Autoput; subsequent negotiations will cover commercial traffic as well;

c. allow repair of the railroad line between Novska and Nova Gradiska;

d. repair of the telecommunications system (in keeping with the results of the preliminary study of the situation conducted in August 1992, including representatives of both sides);

e. establishment of a joint commission for normalization of the life of the public in the UNPA, with special emphasis on reassessment, and later reestablishment, of the social services, the health service, the schools, and athletic activity;

f. unhindered and regular meetings at checkpoints under supervision of the UNPROFOR;

g. allow return of all displaced persons;

h. allow civilians living on both sides of the demarcation line to work on their land (this is especially important and urgent at this moment so that field croppers are guaranteed a good yield at harvest time later in the year);

i. meetings of representatives of local authorities in order to discuss methods of future cooperation;

j. allow containers to be positioned in accordance with the agreement reached; and

l. joint commissions are also to be formed for the preparation, performance, and follow-up of each point and supervision of all the points.

The agreement is signed by the representatives:

[illegible signatures]

Serbia-Krajina Conflict Detailed

93BA0682A Belgrade VREME in Serbo-Croatian 22 Feb 93 pp 24-25

[Unattributed article: "Serbian-Serbian Dispute: Rendering of Accounts"]

[Text] VECERNJE NOVOSTI has published, and RTS [Serbian Radio and Television] has broadcast on its prime-time "Journal" program, the opinion of a "majority of people in Knin" who are angry at the present conduct of "leading people of the RSK [Republic of Serbian Krajina], especially Goran Hadzic, Mile Paspalj, and Stojan Jarcevic," who are currently in New York. "They are criticized for their sheer verbalism, their failure to take the necessary measures to protect Serbian territories from the Ustashi offensive that was announced long ago, and their naivete toward UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Force] and craving for power." At the same time, VECERNJE NOVOSTI points to the "unreserved support" enjoyed by the "popular" Mile Martic and the "proven leaders from the previous war." When this sort of thing is proclaimed by state TV, then it is possible to determine with a good bit of certainty that what the positions of the people who currently hold power are as well. It is no secret that the president of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, Goran Hadzic, very rarely shows his face in Knin, and when he does he is surrounded by a cordon of reliable bodyguards. Specifically, many followers of the former president were unable to forgive Hadzic for his role in replacing Babic, who was opposed to the arrival of the peacekeeping forces.

The attack by the Croatian Armed Forces on 22 January found the Krajinans rather unprepared. The front was stabilized only after 48 hours, when the Croatian side had largely achieved its planned goals. There are numerous assessments indicating that Hadzic tried to use this fact to finally settle scores with the opposing, original guerrilla faction in Knin. The designated culprit of the day is Minister of Defense Stojan Spanovic, or rather the officers loyal most of all to Babic, who are charged with being under the influence of the SK-PJ [League of Communists-Movement for Yugoslavia]. The balance of power, especially armed power, was fortunately found in volunteers from the FRY, so that Zeljko Raznatovic Arkan was appointed special adviser to President Hadzic. Little is known of what all happened at the meeting of the Krajinan government when, besides Spanovic, Minister of Information Dusan Ecimovic (who had previously submitted his own resignation "for profound ethical, human, patriotic, and political reasons") was also removed from his post. In any event, Hadzic's indestructible minister of internal affairs and untried Gen. Mile Martic felt pointed out, so that on his own initiative on Radio Knin, in a broadcast transmitted by other Krajinan radio stations as well, he attacked the current government, of which he himself is a member, on charges of corruption, as well as the Krajina Office in Belgrade, which organizes and sends volunteers, on charges of stonewalling and harmful structures, and a number of volunteers, thereby emphasizing that the differences between him and Babic lie only in nuances on the road toward a common goal.

The reactions that followed were completely confused. The Krajina Office accused the "Babic-Martic-Spanovic" axis of a military-political putsch. The RSK government issued a statement emphasizing most of all the need to defend against Croatian attacks, while shrouding the essence of the political conflict in the functioning of government under wartime conditions. The people's deputy to the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Zeljko Raznatovic Arkan, who is said to have taken control in Benkovac with his units (upon entering the city, the "Tigers" legitimized, among others, RSK Prime Minister Zdravko Zecevic), declared that he and his units are fighting for the "unification of all Serbian states," and that no one will thwart them in this battle, not even the "clique from the SK-PJ." In the meantime, the new director of TV Knin, David Rastovic, whom Martic forbade from entering the premises of Radio Knin, has moved some of the equipment from Knin to Gracac, with the help of some of Arkan's "Tigers," so that there is also the threat of a media war between the conflicting Krajinan factions.

President Hadzic is in New York, and is wisely remaining silent. If Martic and Babic quell the influence of the volunteers, then he will be forced to respond to many questions from "those with the support of the people." Even if the volunteers undermine these two men, Hadzic will not have an easy time of it—he will have to render accounts with those who are fighting for the "unification of the Serbian lands" and those who are sending them for bargaining and negotiating with Croatia, since the direction of the winds from Belgrade has not yet been determined.

Federal

Yugoslav Air Force Refutes UN Report of Violations

LD1703190393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1646 GMT 17 Mar 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, March 17 (TANJUG)—Not one Yugoslav plane has violated Bosnia-Herzegovina's air space since the U.N. introduced a no-fly zone there last October, TANJUG was told by the Yugoslav Air Force Command on Wednesday [17 March].

U.N. representative Shannon Boyd in Zagreb stated on Tuesday that last Saturday three single-engined piston-driven planes bombed Moslem villages around Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia and then flew away towards the F.R. Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav Air Force Command, however, told TANJUG that neither had any planes from Yugoslavia taken off for Bosnia, nor had any foreign planes violated Yugoslav air space. It had no information about any planes or related activities over eastern Bosnia otherwise referred to in Shannon Boyd's statement.

Government Introduces New Visa Requirements

LD1703163193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1518 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Mar (TANJUG)—The government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia today decided to introduce visas for citizens of France, Switzerland, Benelux countries, Austria, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Great Britain, Morocco, Ireland, Germany, Turkey and Iran, while citizens of Malaysia, which forbade citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from entering its territory, will be treated reciprocally.

According to a statement by the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, all holders of passports of these countries are obliged, in line with the decision of the federal government, to obtain an adequate Yugoslav visa in a diplomatic-consular mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia abroad before entering the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Visas will be issued under the same conditions that these countries have set for the Yugoslav citizens to obtain their visas.

The statement by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs notes that in the course of 1992 governments of certain countries unilaterally suspended or cancelled valid agreements on visa regime, introducing visas for the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, while Malaysia unilaterally decided to forbid citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from entering its territory.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the statement says, proceeding from such a situation and a need to observe the principle of reciprocity in the visa regime, and also to protect the interests of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its citizens, adopted the decision to introduce visas for citizens of these countries.

Industrial Production Drops 40.2 Percent

LD1703213793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1606 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 17 Mar (TANJUG)—The volume of industrial production in Yugoslavia in the first two months of this year is 40.2 percent lower than in the same period last year, Mirjana Rankovic, deputy director of the Federal Institute of Statistics, stated at a press conference today. [passage omitted]

Apart from the production of oil and gas, which is 15.1 percent higher this February than in February 1992, all other industrial branches have recorded considerable shortfalls. But it is obvious that this figure is misleading in light of the fact that the production of oil derivatives was down by 62.9 percent compared with February last year. [passage omitted]

Inflation in February was 211.8 percent.

Russian Opposition Leader Urges Lifting of Sanctions

LD1703234293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2113 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Belgrade, March 17 (TANJUG)—Russian Constitutional Committee Secretary and leader of the Russian parliamenatary opposition group Oleg Rumyantsev urged on Wednesday [17 March] for the lifting of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and underscored that this was the stand of the Russian deputies.

Rumyantsev who is currently visiting Serbia, accused Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev as holding the greatest responsibility for the fact that this demand did not meet with greater support in Russia, at a press conference Rumyantsev said that the deputies expected an answer from the Russian Government to the demand for sending humanitarian aid to Serbia and Montenegro.

He also urged for the creation of an association of spiritually close nations from Russia to Cyprus, assessing that such a model would allow for the resolving of controversial questions pertaining to nations following the orthodox faith, and help strengthen economic cooperation and speed up progress. Such an association would have as much importance as the Islamic conference, said Rumyantsev.

Rumyantsev said that he had already discussed the idea with Serbian Patriarch Pavle, Yugoslav and Serbian

Presidents Dobrica Cosic and Slobodan Milosevic respectively, and others who, said Rumyantsev, agreed to it as a possibility.

Files on Raped Women Reviewed

93BA0697A Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 23 Feb 93 p 6

[Article by Milica Tomic: "Between Life and Death: Fate of Women Raped in War"]

[Text]*Loveless children born or killed; wherever the soldiers' morale is high, women are protected from rape, emphasizes psychiatrist Dr. Milenko Bjelogrlic; pregnancies of longer than 20 weeks are terminated only if the patient's psychological health is disturbed, says gynecologist Dr. Miomir Krstic.*

The fate of raped women in the former Yugoslavia is being discussed in Brussels. Will Europe finally see the truth about how many such women there are on all the belligerent sides?

According to knowledgeable, qualified psychiatrists and gynecologists, that number is not in the tens of thousands, as alleged by those who want to vilify the enemy in the eyes of world public opinion.

We speak with Dr. Miomir Krstic, the head of the Family Planning Division at the Obstetric-Gynecological Clinic [GAK] in Belgrade and the chairman of the Commission for Abortions for Raped Women, who first shows us a circular from the Serbian Medical Society [SLD]. A subcommittee of the SLD Ethics Committee sent it out to all gynecologists with the request that all cases of rape during the war be reported to the SLD. Dr. Krstic also shows us the files of women who were patients of the GAK. The gynecologist with many years of experience, confronted with the varied experiences of his patients, admits that he was moved by the fate of the raped women. He would rather not retell them.

He proposes that we look through the files. The first raped Serb woman, N.N., a patient at the GAK, reported there on 3 September of last year. She was a nurse from Brcko, born in 1954. Upon returning from Germany, she was taken to a camp in Slavonski Brod. At the GAK, it was determined that she was in an advanced state of pregnancy. There was an interview with a psychologist, she provided information to the Commission for War Crimes, and she did not request an interview with a psychiatrist. In October, a daughter weighing 2,550 grams was born. The child is now on Zvecanska Street, while the mother has remained in Belgrade. We will skip the details on how she was raped.

K.S. (born in 1968), a shopkeeper, unmarried, from Ilijas, spent several months in a camp in Breza. She was raped many times, and upon examination proved to be 19 weeks pregnant. She is married and already has two children. R.N. (1954), a housewife from Lopare, was a prisoner for five months at a camp in Tuzla, and in her sixth month of pregnancy she fell into a severe psychological state. Psychiatrists have concluded that it is so-called reactive depression. The pregnancy was terminated, and today she lives somewhere in Serbia as a refugee. K.S. (20), a hairdresser from Sarajevo, unmarried, gave birth to a daughter on 19 November of last year. The child is on Zvecanska Street. V.S., an unmarried student from Kakanj (1968), was held under house arrest and raped many times. She terminated her pregnancy in the 22d week on 4 January of this year.

Girl's Tears

The sixth file remains closed. A pretty 21-year-old woman enters Dr. Krstic's room: N.N. from Sarajevo, trained as a nurse and working as a hairdresser. She came from a camp in Sarajevo. Her parents stayed behind in that city. Her brother is a soldier at the front. N.N. spent seven months in captivity with 13 other Serb women. They had to keep quiet and simply comply with their tormentors' wishes. This was the first time that N.N. was talking to a journalist. She recently terminated her pregnancy in the fifth month. She speaks softly and slowly, with long pauses. She is the only one of the six GAK patients who has not seen a psychiatrist. She knows who raped her, she tells everything, but for understandable reasons we are not publishing the names and all the facts.

"I do not hate any nation of people, we were friends before the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Now I think that I could never again live with Muslims," she says very quickly. No tears on her face, only a spasm. She leaves, asking for a cigarette.

Dr. Krstic mentions two other cases, one from the Clinic in Novi Sad, where an abortion was performed on S.N. (1965), unmarried, originally from Gracanica. She spent seven months in a camp at Orasje, was raped by many men, and came in during her fifth month of pregnancy. The second case was from the Clinic at the People's Front in Belgrade. This was a nurse from Trebinje who came in for an examination in January, provided a statement on being raped, but later retracted it before the Commission for War Crimes.

Dr. Miomir Krstic explains that the Commission for Abortions studies each case carefully and decides as a team together with psychologists and psychiatrists. An abortion is performed after 20 weeks only if the woman's psychological health is disturbed. Each patient is tested for AIDS. None have come back positive. Krstic emphasizes that the doctors' primary concern, after medical intervention, rests with the resocialization of the victimized girls and women.

Priest's Tale

N.N., 18, from Sarajevo, came to priest Nikola Jovic at St. George's Church in Cukarica. She fled to Belgrade a month ago in her seventh month of pregnancy. An only daughter, the Muslims killed her father, and she and her

mother ended up in captivity. In the camp, her assailants took her virginity. They held her for six months and then exchanged her for their own people. This Christian Orthodox believer told her entire story. The priest does not tell her story to the journalist, saying only that he was in a dilemma about what attitude to take and what to say to her. As a person but also as a priest, who in this sort of situation tells his parishioner the church's position on raped women. Father Nikola tells us that he said to her, among other things, that the history of Christianity is replete with even more terrible events and suffering by believers, that every dark cloud has a silver lining, and that N.N. and her future child are innocent in God's eyes. He assured her that divine justice is slow and invisible to our human understanding, known only to God, but that it is nevertheless omnipresent and does not spare anyone, that all secrets become public and the truth is always heard, which is the evangelic message. N.N. will give birth in two months. She will wait a much longer time, perhaps forever, to verify the efficacy of the solace and hope in the priest's words.

For Now, No Psychological Recoveries

There is one more stop on the road for raped women, the "Dr. Laza Lazarevic" Psychiatric Clinic in Belgrade. Its director, Dr. Milenko Bjelogrlic, tells us that access to the documentation is limited to the doctor treating these women. Dr. Bjelogrlic is prepared to discuss the phenomenon of violence and atrocities in wartime, in which context rape is only one manifestation. He tells us that interest in these women has been demonstrated thus far by representatives of numerous international commissions, the Red Cross, humanitarian agencies, Tadeusz Mazowiecki's team of special reporters on human rights, the World Council of Churches.... Journalists, both foreign and domestic, visit every day. But "to us the interests of our patients rise above all that; they do not want publicity and public attention, which stirs up additional trauma," says Dr. Bjelogrlic. Some of the raped women have entered into severe depression, the doctor explains. At first they do not say that they were raped, only mistreated. They stay 10 to 15 days. Only after they return do they open up, because in the meantime some have attempted suicide. Then they talk openly with the doctor, even though at the beginning they sat silently with lowered eyes and head, simply repeating that they needed no help whatsoever. Each retelling of the horrors they have been through stirs up new anguish in them.

"Even if we put them out in front of the public, one or more of them, we will not convince the part of the world that feels animosity toward the Serbs to change its position," Dr. Bjelogrlic says categorically. "They will never say, 'Yes, these poor Serbs were raped.'"

We ask Dr. Bjelogrlic whether these women were additionally traumatized by the fact that they were raped during war, by the enemy. Is that more humiliating?

"Rape is a phenomenon that is typical of man ever since his genesis; it happens in all civilizations, races, ideologies. Who commits rape? Usually aggressive psychopaths, who make up 3 percent of the earth's population of five billion. You figure out how many of them there are. A psychopath enjoys his victim's suffering. Rape during war has another component as well. People talk about the great lack of morals on the part of officers and those who get armies involved in war. As far as I know, the only army in the world that has killed soldiers for rape was our Partisan army. In principle, aggressive psychopaths are cowards, and in an unbridled army that has been indoctrinated to believe that Serbs are ugly, dirty, bad, and that they must be punished, the officers bear a great deal of responsibility for rape as well. Through this act, the assailant wants to violate the father, husband, brother, and son of the raped woman, to cast them into psychological despair, anguish, and sorrow, where they lose the strength to defend themselves. This is essentially a cannibalistic background for massacring, through psychological genocide, the Serbian man, the father, husband, brother, and son. Erotic enjoyment is only secondary to the assailant. Wherever the morale of professionals and soldiers is high, the women are protected from rape. The basic motivation of an aggressive psychopath is to destroy everything that moves, that pulsates. The opposing side is not interested in having the world learn the truth about the rapes, because the truth would spoil the desired image in the world's eyes about how this is a highly civilized nation."

Dr. Bjelogrlic emphasizes that the phenomenon of numbers has no significance whatsoever to him as a psychiatrist.

Serbia

Knin Seen as Becoming Too Expensive for Serbia

93BA0721C Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 26 Feb 93 p 7

[Article by Miroslav Ivic: "Knin Is Becoming Too Expensive for Serbia"]

[Text] Why has the scenario of a final consent to peace in western Slavonia not occurred in Knin? Is the explanation only the "Dinarid blood" there, the fact that the very cradle of the rebellion in Knin was in the northern Dalmatian remotenesses of Bukovica, that Serbia, aiming at the "Slavonian plains" used the Dalmatian karst? Will the "western Slavonian virus" soon infect the so-called Sector South as well? Are there enough people in Knin, Benkovac, and Obrovac who would exchange a rifle for an olive branch?

Western Slavonia, just like northern Dalmatia, has already spent nearly two years in war through its own will and with the help of the "remote controller" in Belgrade. In western Slavonia, just as in Knin, they have been able to see that in those two years Croatia has created an army which guarantees that it will not have

any more terrorist takeovers. The circumstances have also changed completely with Croatia's recognition as an independent state and with its acceptance into the United Nations. The action at Maslenica and Croatia's determination to open up the most important roads so as to finally link up all the parts of its own territory might also have been clearly interpreted in western Slavonia as the last peace offer, before Croatia resorts to opening up the important major highway by military action.

They obviously have understood that in western Slavonia, and so they agreed to the talks. In Knin, at least for the present, they obviously are not ready for that, and there the trumpets of war are still louder. Why? First of all, western Slavonia is a step ahead of the fate that represents tomorrow in Knin, Benkovac, and Obrovac. Just as Serbia left western Slavonia to its own fate yesterday, so tomorrow it will do so with northern Dalmatia. Knin is still receiving abundant aid from Serbia; Serbian "volunteers," who are taking over important roles in the military structures there and the "bodies of government, are also arriving. In Knin, there is also a stratum in which a large number will not be able to avoid trial for war crimes and who have seized "power," or are in its vicinity, and are deriving profit from that. The power struggle—at the moment it has to do with the "resurrection" of Babic the dentist at the expense of Hadzic the warehouseman—is preoccupying Knin far more than western Slavonia, which is surrounded, its highways cut, and left by Serbia to face the dilemma: War or talks? The first step toward Knin also consenting to that has already been taken with the freeing of Maslenica and Peruca. After that, the terrorists can no longer blackmail Croatia with those two structures, and their assurance of "Serbian invincibility" has also been shaken. The next step in the sobering up will be General Bobetko's decision to respond to the terrorist shelling of Zadar, Sibenik, or Vodice with projectiles against Knin, so that they can also face what the Croats have put up with for two years now.

What is more, Knin is increasingly expensive for Serbia, because it makes it necessary to feed and arm the terrorists who after every action of the HV [Croatian Army] of any significance cry out for help and charge "mummy" with betrayal. That is why probably even in Serbia, or at least in the public there, they will soon have enough and will get sick of "that Knin, which is always asking for something." When the vents from Serbia are stopped up, and there is nothing any longer to plunder, then even in Knin the conditions will most probably mature for the ringleaders of the war to sit down at the negotiating table. Of course, then Croatia will be putting a condition, and the first of them should be that it does not wish to talk to those with whom war crimes commissions will be dealing.

Lilic Predicts Sanctions To Be Lifted

LD1703203193 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1713 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Belgrade, March 17 (TANJUG)—President of Serbia's Parliament Zoran Lilic on Wednesday said that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) and Serbia expect to get support from the U.N. member-countries for the lifting of the sanctions "because there is no reason for them to continue."

In a meeting with president of the International Academy of Computer Sciences and Systems Viktor Tarasov of Ukraine, Lilic said that the "sanctions on Yugoslavia, i.e. Serbia, are unfair and inhumane. Yugoslavia, i.e. Serbia, is condemned for the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and they have in no way participated in the war."

The Ukrainian Parliament has condemned the unfair sanctions on the F.R.Y. and urged their lifting, Tarasov said.

The international community has recognized the right to self-determination of all the nations in the former Yugoslavia except the Serbs, Lilic said. "As long as the international community has double standards for the peoples of the former Yugoslavia, it is not realistic to expect the war in Croatia or Bosnia-Herzegovina to end," he said.

Tarasov said that the international campaign against the F.R.Y., especially against Serbia, was unfounded and that the war would not have started had it not been for the interference of foreign interests in the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia.

On behalf of the president of the Ukrainian Parliament, Tarasov suggested a meeting of the representatives of the two parliaments, i.e. their presidents, in the near future. He said that the two nations had much in common. Lilic supported the initiative and said that parlaiamentary cooperation should be followed by stronger economic and other ties between the two nations.

The U.N. comprehensive sanctions were imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in May last year because of its alleged involvement in the civil war in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

DEPOS Urges Opposition To Unite

LD1703230993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1911 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Belgrade, March 17 (TANJUG)—Leaders of the Democratic Movement of Serbia (DEPOS), a bloc of opposition parties and distinguished independent intellectuals, on Wednesday urged the democratic opposition in the republic to unite "with a view to ending the war, changing the current regime, and convening a constituent assembly."

The DEPOS declaration, presented at a news conference, said that "Serbia increasingly resembles a prison managed by politicians with the assistance of criminals."

The declaration said the army had "growing political ambitions," and the steadily deteriorating relations

between the two Yugoslav Republics, Serbia and Montenegro, and the difficult position of Serbs outside the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia gave rise to concern.

Academician Ljubomir Simovic said that DEPOS would use all parliamentary and extraparliamentary forms of political struggle to change the existing state of affairs, and underscored that a democratic system could not be achieved by non-democratic means.

Vuk Draskovic, leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), one of the strongest and most influential opposition parties, said that it was not undemocratic to resort to "all means for the sake of salvaging the state and the nation" and the opposition "should be ready" to do so.

At a news conference held on Wednesday by the Social-Democratic Party (SDP), SDP President Cedomir Mirkovic said the basic precondition for the maintenance of the vital functions of the state was an irrevocable resignation of Serbia's Prime Minister Nikola Sainovic. Mirkovic said Sainovic's resignation would create conditions for the forming of a government of national salvation.

Serbian Difficulty in Giving Up Slavonia Assessed

93BA0721B Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 26 Feb 93 pp 6-7

[Article by Krunoslava Banic: "Slavonia's Unrealized Wish"]

[Text] Although the Serbian expansionist aggression against Croatia played out according to more or less the same pattern, with only certain minor differences, deliberation of the Croatian regions now occupied will differ from sector to sector. The rebellious Serbs in western Slavonia, one of the three separate occupied entities, have already begun to show faces with less rigid expressions. It will soon be seen whether this is to be confirmed in deeds. Meanwhile, is it possible that Daruvar will take place in Vukovar or Beli Manastir?

No one in Croatia can provide the answer to that question. Just like the solution to the entire war in Croatia, that answer lies in Belgrade. If it should in fact take its hand off the occupied Croatian regions, Belgrade will have the hardest time giving up eastern Slavonia and Baranja. There is a lengthy list of facts to support that. Occupied eastern Slavonia and Baranja are the only ones that border directly on the aggressor country. From the military standpoint, they are easy to defend. All three bridges on the Danube are under control of the rebellious Serbs, along with the Mirkovci-Sid highway, a key transportation route in eastern Slavonia that is some 30 km long. There is no vehicle, including even armored vehicles, which takes longer than an hour to travel that broad asphalt highway. The last Serbian checkpoint is some 1,500 m from the center of Vinkovci. As for Baranja, the part that is occupied is separated from free Croatia by the natural obstacle of the Drava, except in the case of Osijek and the Drava Valley on the other side of the Drava, which is free.

What is more, Serbia also had a great material interest in occupying eastern Slavonia and Baranja, more than in any other case. It is not just a question here of the fertile land of Slavonia and Baranja. That highly developed part of Croatia is also rich in its industrial capacity; let us recall only Belja, which now is for all practical purposes in the hands of the terrorists, and then there are forests, petroleum, and the Danube and the port of Vukovar. It is not of interest to Serbia only now, when it is subject to the sanctions, so that it can get around them there, but also in normal times of peace.

Not to mention the rich villages and still richer Slavonian houses. Today, occupied eastern Slavonia and Baranja have been thoroughly plundered and carted away all over Vojvodina and Serbia. Looting was in fact the fundamental motive which the "Serbian fighters"—vultures—had in capturing those regions. Even to them, for all their blindness and elaboration of the "jeopardy" of the Serbs in Croatia, it was clear that that was not the case, especially in Slavonia and Baranja. The problem is that the Serbs were a minority there, there were very few of them! And that is true in all four Slavonia-Baranja opstinas, two of which—Vukovar and Beli Manastir—are entirely occupied, while Osijek and Vinkovci are only partially occupied. Taken as a whole, the 20-some percent Serbs, which is what they represent in the population of those four opstinas, cannot get even special status, by contrast with the Knin and Glina districts.

For all that, although the rebellious Slavonia-Baranja Serbs are living at a low level, if we compare that new life of theirs, that "free" life as they call it, with that previous one, compared to the other rebellious Serbs in Croatia they are nevertheless living the best.

Slavonia, with its diverse resources and geopolitical position, was enticing to them and still more to Serbia. So, even if it takes its hand off the "devil's triangle" in western Slavonia, even if it gives up the rocky terrain and remoteness of Knin with the excuse of districts with special status, Belgrade will have a hard time giving up eastern Slavonia, and many think it never will.

Pressures on Workers' Compensation Fund

93BA0693D Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 11 Feb 93 p 12

[Article by Dragana Sverko and Nadezda Gace: "A Third of the Workers Receiving Pocket Money From the Government"]

[Text] One out of every three workers in Serbia has received money since the sanctions were introduced from the Fund for Compensation of Wages and Salaries of all employees on mandatory leave. Payrolls have been paid in 578 firms (570 firms last year and 71 this year). The number of beneficiaries, however, is twice that

many, because many firms have appealed to the fund twice or more. Funds, then, have been taken by 1,022 firms, among them giants (formerly at least) like Zastava, Electronics Industry of Nis, Yugoslav Airlines, Kluz (twice), Beko (three times), the 21 May Motor and Tractor Industry in Rakovica, etc.

According to Momir Pavlicevic, chairman of the fund's board of directors, about 200 billion dinars have been approved in nominal terms. In real terms, 50 billion. The precise figure, he himself says, is almost impossible to determine because of the constant change in the dinar's exchange rate, so that, following that logic, the payments should be calculated every day according to the German mark. In that case, it is calculated that between 50 and 60 million marks [DM] have been spent. It is certain that there is quite a bit of uncertainty about the final figure, because other sources say that DM250 million have passed through the fund.

Pavlicevic goes on to explain that some organizations have already repaid loans obtained from the fund, like Kluz, which has obtained money three times and twice returned the money borrowed. Out of 50 billion, nearly 7 billion dinars have been repaid, or 15 percent. It will be difficult to calculate how much pay the leave of one-third of the workers will cost us (without blaming the workers, who on the one hand are privileged, but on the other not, because mandatory time off, they say, is only a step toward ultimate dismissal). It is certain, though, that the money invested in unearned salaries of workers cannot be repaid. If we had invested them in production in good time, Pavlicevic says, today we would have some kind of benefit from that. This way, the pressure on the fund is greater and greater, more and more workers are on the list, and it is slowly turning into its opposite. If we go on this way, soon the fund will not have anyone replenishing it, because everyone is following the logic that it makes more sense to sit at home than to go to work. At the same time, everyone is dissatisfied. The strike at Rakovica, for example, was declared both by those who are working and those who are on mandatory leave. The former because they receive minimal pay, and the latter, because their compensation is not enough for even a scanty market basket. It is certain, says Aleksandar Lakovic, director of the DMB, that the 1,700 workers who were working last September will not be able to support the other 3,500 people for whom there simply is no work.

At Zastava, more than 26,000 workers (a third from the automobile factory) out of the total labor force of 48,000 were on mandatory leave last November. As we were informed by Radivoje Andonovic, deputy general director of Zastava, 20,000 are receiving compensation from the fund, while the others are on so-called paid leave, which means that workers who were on the job are working for them. It is certain that Zastava will depend on the fund for a long time yet.

The blockade and mandatory leave have raised yet another question. They have demonstrated that production is possible with half as many workers as there were previously, and at the same time the production process is not in jeopardy in many collectives. Vladeta Arandjelovic, director of the Tigar Rubber Factory in Pirot, says that the Serbian government should give up its absurd position that no one can be discharged so long as the blockade lasts. If we need to protect social welfare, let it be done by the government, he says. Business executives are increasingly unanimous in their assessment that business firms, especially big ones, which were a drag on the economy even before the sanctions, should go on the auction block. Private operators are the most outspoken about this. The blockade has clearly demonstrated who can survive and who cannot survive under market conditions, says Radisa Pljakic, owner of the private firm Flores in Kragujevac, adding that the government should urgently draft a program for Serbia's strategic development. We should "cut loose" social welfare and leave it to the government, he says. The statistics in many enterprises indicate that there will be more and more "cut loose." In the metals industry, for example, only 40 percent of capacity has been utilized over the last three months. Some factories have shut down entirely, and some like FAP in Priboj are operating only between 15- and 20-percent capacity. According to Slobodan Panic, director of Viskoza in Loznica, about 7,000 workers of this chemical giant are on paid leave. There are only 2,500 people on the job, and there is barely work even for them.

It is certain that skirmishing between the government and business over who is responsible for social welfare still lies ahead of us, and that the bill, if we really make the turn toward a market economy, will be paid by the large firms, which will have political overtones. Speaking on one occasion about the future of his firm, Radoljub Micic, general director of Zastava in Kragujevac, spoke about a compact nucleus in which fewer than half of the workers now employed would remain. Is something like that going to happen to Sartid, the former Smederevo Metallurgical Combine, which for many years was the open sore of the Serbian economy (not a single worker in that collective is receiving compensation from the fund!), the DMB, Prva Iskra?...

Distinguished economic experts say that the economy has reached the lower limit of tolerance and that the economy is already eating up its own flesh at a great rate. Even the momentary successes of the Smederevo Steel Mill, of Rekord in Rakovica, of Zmaj, and of the food-processing industry are not harbingers of any changes for the better.

"There is no perpetuum mobile in engineering (creation of energy from nothing). It is the same with finances, money cannot be created from nothing. Every dinar which someone spends must also be earned by someone, regardless of whether he is paid from primary note issue or by way of interest on funds," says Miodrag Zaric, general director of Holivel-Neopren.

Dr. Zlatko Kovacic of the School of Economics at Belgrade University believes that the collapse of the economy has only been postponed. There can be no talk of the economy's vitality, but of a new phenomenon, the transition to a market economy conceived in Balkan fashion, that is, a kind of hybrid economic system, is emerging which can be confidently referred to as a Robin Hood economy.

Montenegro

Niksic Steelworks Factory Production Cuts

93BA0693E Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 23 Feb 93 p 9

[Article by D. Vucinic: "No Debts and No Production"]

[Text] Responsible people in the Montenegrin government and republic Chamber of Commerce do not even let it be said that the government has withdrawn its support from the Niksic Steelworks, which for several decades was a pet and had a great economic future. On the contrary, they say, is it not evidence to the contrary that the government and Montenegro Banka last year paid its entire old foreign debt in the amount of $47 million (in nominal terms)?

In spite of that, it is hard to escape the impression that the firm is pretty much disintegrating. And soon there will be utter apathy as to work effort. For one thing, until quite recently its table of organization was "beheaded" at the very top. It was only the other day that Vojin Djukanovic, chairman of the Montenegrin Chamber of Commerce, was chosen to head it.

Last June, that is, Eng. Ranko Milovic was the factory's director. Said to be an able specialist who is well-known in Europe. It is for that reason that some Austrian firm invited him to Iran to work for them for three months and at the same time, at a good salary, to get advanced specialized training. The people in authority approved that arrangement, and Milovic designated Eng. Zarko Mijuskovic as his replacement, that is, director of the steelworks.

A few months ago, the firm was reorganized as a corporation, and the competent authorities did not want to register it because it did not officially have a director, and under the law they were unable to do so.

When we add to this the "objective difficulties" that occurred, first, because of the disintegration of the Yugoslav market and the unified economic space, and later because of the world's sanctions and the impossibility of importing or exporting goods, then it does not seem any wonder that today there is hardly any mention made of the former "backbone of the development of the Niksic economy," which in 1986 employed 7,200 workers and was planning to one day produce the projected 400,000 metric tons of raw steel and 320,000 tons of finished products.

They are assuming for this year barely 137,000 tons of total output. All of 70,000 tons of this are reinforcing iron, which recently has been almost the only product somehow helping them to survive, although this is not, nor was it supposed to be, a "specialty" of this mill for special steels, with its expensive equipment and technology.

"We have had to replace our original production program of special high-quality steels, which in the former Yugoslavia were produced only by the Slovenes and us," says Zarko Mijuskovic, "with other programs as soon as the Yugoslav market fell apart. And especially when exports had to cease."

Last year, Mijuskovic says, the steel mill produced only 73 percent of those amounts of raw steel it produced the previous year. The reasons lie above all in the impossibility of sales on the reduced space of Yugoslavia, but also in the impossibility of purchasing sufficient quantities of raw materials (steel waste and scrap iron), production supplies (graphite electrodes, refractories, and so on), and replacement parts.

Some plants, then—for example, the blooming mill and cold-rolling mill—shut down completely long ago. The number of workers in the factory has been reduced to 4,500 and to 5,100 in the entire holding company. Many of them are on mandatory leave, some for one month, some for the second month. The question, however, is how long they will be able to produce even what they are still producing, and will not the forging plant soon shut down even though there are quite a few orders for its goods? The reason is the shortage of propane-butane gas.

"The shortage of butane is a direct consequence of the economic blockade," Mijuskovic says, "but also of our inadequate organization, that is, of insufficient community concern of the state of Yugoslavia about priority consumers. Propane-butane gas is produced by Serbia, but it consumes little of it itself. We need a relatively small amount: between 100 and 150 tons a month. Serbia accommodated us throughout all of last year. Its government even intervened on that account several times. Now, however, everything is paid for in advance, or exchanges are contracted for at the government level. But the steel mill, of course, is having money trouble even dealing with the past, much less the future. The salaries of engineers," Mijuskovic says, "are on the average at the level of salaries of cleaning women, say, in Montenegro Banka."

More serious organization of the firm could hardly be counted on even if there were more money. It will be no wonder, then, if before long another door shuts both in the production operation and auxiliary departments of the steel mill, just as they shut the door of the trade union center, the bowling alley, and the factory newspaper, of which the steelworkers of Niksic were once proud as a high socialist achievement of their cultural and athletic life.

[Box, p 9]

Billions Stolen

Although about 100 supposed custodians of factory property are employed in the security department, only the heaviest and most cumbersome machines have not been stolen from the steel mill. Many were even carried out whole from the factory grounds and sold as scrap.

"The best indication of the quantity of finished goods, various expensive supplies, and tools being stolen from the mill every day, even in trucks, is the fact that several private scrap dealers are registered right outside the factory fence," says Engineer Mijuskovic, "and they are all doing a very successful business."

Only once have the police caught thieves when they were offering those firms sizable quantities of expensive copper. Probably they would not have caught even them if they had not been Gypsies, Mijuskovic says, adding that law enforcement agencies responded that they have no right to seek evidence on the origin of goods being sold as scrap, when they were requested to do that "favor."

Kosovo

Rugova Supports 'Peaceful' Independence

AU1803122393 Zofingen RILINDJA in Albanian 4 Mar 93 p 3

[Interview with Kosovar President Ibrahim Rugova by Emanuel Rezhy; place and date not given: "Dr. Ibrahim Rugova: I Am For Kosovo's Independence"]

[Text] [Rezhy] How is the situation in Kosovo today?

[Rugova] We are experiencing a daily repression. Arrests are being made every day. We have been informed that tortures are being carried out in police stations. An action was recently taken to search Albanians for arms, even though they are not carrying arms. With this latest measure, the Serbs want to help the Albanians leave their country. A calm ethnic cleansing is being carried out in Kosovo. Many people leave the country every day as a result of violent and political persecutions. Over the most recent years, approximately 300,000 Albanians have left their country to go to Switzerland or Scandinavian countries. Repression greatly increased after the December elections in Serbia. The Serbian extreme right has managed to be at the head of these elections because of the boycott of the Albanians who make up 90 percent of the Kosovo population.

[Rezhy] Do you think that Slobodan Milosevic is ready to start an armed conflict in Kosovo?

[Rugova] He needs a pretext first. If the Albanians lose their temper and revolt, then he can use this as an alibi for intervention. This also depends on the games of the Belgrade government. They can use an intervention in Kosovo to keep the power by playing Serbian nationalism. Everything is possible because the Serbian regime is ultranationalist in its integrity, which I refer to as national communism. This is a mixture of neocommunism and nationalism.

[Rezhy] Are you for the independence of Kosovo or the return of a status of autonomy?

[Rugova] I am for the independence of Kosovo. I have been its chairman since the 24 May elections of last year. I support an independent and neutral Kosovo, which means a Kosovo open to both Serbia and Albania. This is the best way to resolve the relations between Serbia and Kosovo.

[Rezhy] Is the independence possible without armed clashes?

[Rugova] I am working to make this possible through peaceful resistance. An armed conflict in Kosovo would be tragic. For this reason, I am requesting international surveillance as the first step before going on to independence.

[Rezhy] In this case, do you hope to unite with Albania?

[Rugova] The independent Kosovo will be an open country. Albanians will be able to freely communicate and circulate. Albania has not asked to be united because the best solution right now is that everyone remains in his own country. Kosovo has its own borders, along with a judicial and constitutional identity since 1945, the date of the former Yugoslav Federation. These are political realities that oblige us to look for a neutral and independent Kosovo.

Newspaper Reports 'Endless' Emigration

AU1703161293 Tirana ATA in English 1307 GMT 17 Mar 93

["Figures That Cause Worry"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, March 17 (ATA)—Under the above title RILINDJA of Kosovo carries an article voicing the worry over the transfer of Albanians from the Commune of Gllogovci, a phenomenon which has assumed great proportions. The number of those who have decided to take the road of emigration seems to be endless, the newspaper stresses, adding that there are daily reports about people leaving for the West without having any guarantee for jobs or any way to secure their living. So, 1,319 people of various ages have emigrated during the last three years in 18 villages of this commune. About 104 people have left for political reasons and for not wanting to be called up in the Serbian Army.

This phenomenon is taking greater proportions as a result of the intensification of the Serbian violence for the realisation of its policy of ethnic cleansing which is also spread in other regions of Kosovo. Hence, 239 people have emigrated from Zabelini, 170 from Tersteniku, 119 from Citakova e Re, and a number of other villages.